



STARRY AND AURORA PUBLIC SCHOOLS PARTNER TO EXPAND AFFORDABLE BROADBAND ACCESS TO PUBLIC SCHOOL FAMILIES

Nationwide, the COVID-19 pandemic is widening the digital divide in vulnerable communities;

Starry and Aurora Public Schools are teaming up to support broadband connectivity to under-connected public school families in the Delmar Parkway community.

Denver, Co (May 26, 2021) -- [Starry, Inc.](#), a wideband hybrid fiber licensed gigabit wireless internet service provider, today announced a unique partnership with [Aurora Public Schools](#) (APS) to make available its ultra-low-cost broadband access program, [Starry Connect](#), to un- and under-connected APS families living in the Delmar Parkway community in Aurora, Colorado. This pilot partnership with APS represents the first time Starry is making Starry Connect available to families living outside of public and affordable housing communities. Starry is working with APS to bring high-quality broadband services to APS families in the “homework gap” - identified by the school district as not having home broadband access or not having sufficient home broadband connections to support online learning. Starry’s Connect program will be made available to APS families who qualify for free or reduced school lunch and live in residential buildings with Starry internet service within the following zip codes: 80010, 80011, 80012, 80045, 80220, 80230, 80238, and 80247. Starry will be providing eligible APS families with five months of free Starry Connect service upon sign-up.

“Our most vulnerable families are often the same families who fall into the digital gap. They don’t have broadband connectivity at home because it’s unaffordable,” said **Chet Kanojia, co-Founder and CEO of Starry**. “At Starry, our values are centered on developing technology to deliver high-quality, affordable broadband access to every community we serve. If we’re serious about creating digital equity, then we can’t take a one-size-fits-all approach. That’s why we’re proud to partner with Aurora Public Schools on developing this creative solution to get our ultra-low-cost broadband access program to the families who need it most.”

“We want to ensure that all APS students and families are able to find a permanent solution for reliable and affordable internet service,” said **Jeff Konishi, APS Chief Technology Officer**. “Partnering with Starry will allow more of our families in the APS ACTION Zone, which is a network of five schools in northwest Aurora, to have low-cost internet access. It’s a simple solution that also provides the speed students need to stay connected.”

The Starry Connect plan provides up to 30 Mbps symmetrical service with no data caps, no long-term contracts, no extra fees and all equipment, installation and customer care

included for \$15 per month. The Starry Connect program has traditionally partnered with public and affordable housing owners to provide blanket eligibility across apartment communities for access to this ultra-low-cost broadband service plan, without requiring credit checks or other eligibility criteria of residents. The APS partnership will operate similarly, with APS verifying the eligibility of households, therefore relieving any additional paperwork burden from participating families. Pre-qualification, credit checks, and other individual eligibility criteria, are common requirements of other internet providers' affordable access plans and often create insurmountable barriers for families to get the broadband access they need.

Over the last year, the COVID-19 pandemic has intensified the impact of the digital divide in local communities across the country. In response, Starry expanded availability of its Starry Connect program to more than 30,000 units of public and affordable housing across the markets it serves. Students across the country continue to face barriers to attending virtual class or completing required school work without a reliable internet connection at home. Aurora Public Schools has pinpointed affordability as a top barrier to online learning for the majority of its vulnerable families. More than 65% of APS students receive free or reduced lunch.

Starry Internet is currently available in Boston, New York City, Los Angeles, Washington, DC and Denver, with an expansion roadmap that will cover more than 40 million U.S. households. To learn more, visit: starry.com.

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ABOUT STARRY, INC.

At Starry, Inc., we believe the future is built on connectivity and that connecting people and communities to high-speed, broadband internet should be simple and affordable. Using our innovative, wideband hybrid-fiber fixed wireless technology, Starry is deploying gigabit-capable broadband to the home without bundles, data caps, or long-term contracts. Starry is a different kind of internet service provider. We're building a platform for the future by putting our customers first, protecting their privacy, ensuring access to an open and neutral net, and putting the customer experience at the heart of everything we do. Headquartered in Boston and backed by world-class investors, Starry is currently available in Boston, New York, Los Angeles, Washington, DC and Denver and is expanding nationwide. To learn more about Starry or to join our team and help us build a better internet, visit: <https://starry.com/>.

ABOUT AURORA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

[Aurora Public Schools](https://www.auroraschools.org/) is the fifth largest school district in Colorado. APS serves approximately 40,000 students and includes over 60 schools. It is one of the most diverse districts in the state with students from more than 130 countries who speak over 160 languages. Over the past several years, APS has made noteworthy improvements in graduation rates, dropout rates and overall student growth and achievement. In fact, since 2013, APS graduation rates have increased by 27%. During that same period of time, its dropout rate has sharply declined from 4.8% to 1.9%. [APS 2020](#) is the district's strategic plan, which includes three strategic goals: 1) Every APS student will have a plan for his or her future, 2) Every student will have a set of skills to implement his or her plan and 3) Every student will have credentials that open doors. It is the district's vision that every student shapes a successful future.

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