

Digital Equity Toolkit

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The National Institute for Community Innovations (NICI) in collaboration with the PT3 program's digital equity task force, has developed a free toolkit pointing preservice and inservice educators and teacher education faculty to free resources enabling them to address the digital divide in their classroom and community.

Inequitable access for students and educators in low-income communities to learning technology resources remains a vexing and substantial problem in the US and in many other nations. At the same time, foundations, corporate philanthropies and public sector initiatives are investing enormous sums to reduce the digital divide in classrooms and communities. Yet, future and current educators and those who provide teacher preparation and professional development remain almost entirely unaware of these resources, how to tap them, and how to integrate them into educator inservice and preservice.

NICI has developed a free web-based *Digital Equity Toolkit* to point educators to free resources to reduce the digital divide. The Toolkit currently focuses on US-based resources but will become a more internationally oriented resource over time. NICI is working with several national educational organizations to assist in bringing the Toolkit's resources to the attention of educators and teacher education faculty.

In this session, participants will learn about the toolkit, explore how to use it in teacher preparation, and recommend enhancements in the toolkit's format, contents and usability.