

Net@EDU Broadband Policy Group Mission Statement

The Net@EDU Broadband Policy Working Group's primary mission is to influence federal/national broadband policy in order to best promote the education and research goals of higher education. A key component to this mission is educating the higher education constituency on the value of these policy issues and why they are critical for their interests.

The BPG believes there is a strong overlap of how national, public commodity broadband networks are designed and deployed with improving the capacity of the R&E network and meeting the need to connect lifelong learners to information and tools needed for professional development. The BPG recognizes many sectors of our society will benefit from a widely deployed affordable broadband network and seeks to collaborate with the appropriate individuals and organizations in promoting the development and deployment of a ubiquitous affordable broadband network.

Reflecting this evolving mission, the BPG will:

- Develop, recommend and promote policy positions on behalf of EDUCAUSE members that materially advance access to affordable and ubiquitous broadband services.
- Articulate a comprehensive set of principles from which specific positions can be evolved to most effectively serve advocacy of higher education's needs and requirements for broadband technology.
- Maintain active participation in federal, and in salient state and local broadband policy forums to ensure that higher education's needs are adequately represented.
- Develop and maintain effective relationships with industry and federal partners to support the development and deployment of advanced broadband technology.
- Continue to work with our industry partners to ensure the availability of competitively provided affordable broadband facilities products and services.
- Seek legislative solutions that advance the public interest in the effective utilization of broadband technologies.
- Ensure that the policy development process and resulting positions are adequately communicated to EDUCAUSE members and the broader community.
- Identify and analyze emerging and experimental broadband technologies that serve research and education needs.

Proposed Fundamental Principles

The following proposed macro-level principles are designed to guide the BPG in determining whether we should weigh-in on a particular policy issue and its relevance to the EDUCAUSE community:

- Access to advanced communications services and capabilities is essential to individual and community learning and economic competitiveness.
- Affordable access to advanced communications services and capabilities should be seen as a public good.

- Current U.S. telecommunication services and capabilities are unnecessarily constrained by a legacy infrastructure based on obsolete technologies (eg analogue telephone and television services).
- Progress in the deployment of public broadband services requires a new and streamlined regulatory structure based on sound economic and social concepts, and recognizing advantages inherent in new network technology.
- Investment in advanced cyberinfrastructure is a vital component of scientific innovation that fosters economic growth and serves a variety of social needs.
- Higher education's development and deployment of advanced networks is an essential driver of the commercialization of future networking products and services.