



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

August 13, 2020

Media Contact:

Colleen Gilligan

[colleen.gilligan@nashvillepef.org](mailto:colleen.gilligan@nashvillepef.org)

615-574-8938

**ALLIANCEBERNSTEIN, GOOGLE FIBER SUPPORT NASHVILLE PUBLIC EDUCATION FOUNDATION  
TO HELP BRIDGE DIGITAL DIVIDE**

*With schools starting the year online, corporations step up for students*

**NASHVILLE, Tenn.** – [AllianceBernstein](#) and [Google Fiber](#) have each committed \$50,000 to support the elimination of the digital divide for Metro Nashville Public Schools students. With the coronavirus pandemic causing the school year to begin remotely, AllianceBernstein and Google Fiber will be supporting students' technology needs both in the short- and long-term through the Nashville Public Education Foundation.

The [Nashville Public Education Foundation](#) has been raising funds to help Metro Schools eliminate the digital divide since the pandemic began last spring. Along with federal CARES Act dollars, which are being used to purchase new devices for students, the investments from AllianceBernstein and Google Fiber, as well as from individual Nashvillians, will help ensure that all students have a device and access to the internet at home this fall. Funds will be used to purchase charging cables, individual hotspots, and additional devices, as well as invest in long-term solutions to close the digital divide for Metro students.

"AllianceBernstein is honored to help support Metro Nashville Public Schools through the Nashville Public Education Foundation in this time of need for our students," said AllianceBernstein CEO and President Seth Bernstein. "Amidst the challenges presented by Covid-19, our firm continues to focus our efforts on investing in the Middle Tennessee community's future talent, which begins by helping ensure each student has equal access to education."

"Google Fiber has been committed to working with community partners to advance digital inclusion from its beginning and we are excited to work with the Nashville Public Education Foundation to continue those efforts," said Daynise Joseph, Google Fiber Government and Community Affairs Manager. "Now more than ever it is important that people have the tools they need to connect in the virtual space, especially students who are now distance learning."

It is estimated that roughly 7,000 Metro families do not have access to broadband connectivity in Nashville, an issue that requires a city-wide solution. Some of the funds invested by AllianceBernstein and Google Fiber will support long-term solutions to internet access, including providing boosters to help increase connectivity and investing in a citywide technology disparity survey organized by the Digital Inclusion and Access Taskforce, which



includes Black in Tech Nashville, the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce, Metro Information Technology Services (ITS), Vanderbilt University, Alignment Nashville, the Oasis Center, and the Maddox Fund.

“This year’s unique circumstances have created unprecedented challenges for Nashville’s students, and have illustrated that eliminating the digital divide must be a priority for us all,” said Katie Cour, president and CEO of the Nashville Public Education Foundation.

“AllianceBernstein and Google Fiber are stepping up and showing that community partnerships like these are critical to permanently eliminating inequities for our students.”

**About the Nashville Public Education Foundation**

*The Nashville Public Education Foundation is a nonprofit organization that raises private funds to support teachers and leaders, champion successes, and dismantle inequities in Metro Nashville Public Schools. More information is available at [nashvillepef.org](http://nashvillepef.org).*