

Dear (Superintendent or other administrative school official or other VIP with large reach in Shelby),

Next week, November 14-18, the Shelby County Broadband Taskforce plans on promoting an Indiana Internet Speed Test week. The purpose of this is to have a week focused on blasting the “what” and “why” of the speed test to the public in Shelby County in order to get as many results logged as possible. The “what” is the Indiana Farm Bureau internet speed test, a platform designed by the [Indiana Broadband Strategic Partnership](#) to crowdsource internet speeds across the state. The “why” is because the data provided will be one important factor in helping the State to decide where upcoming broadband funding should be prioritized.

Where does your school district figure into this and how can you help? As I’m sure you’re well aware, in many districts across the state a multitude of students face limited access to reliable internet service in their households. Teachers are aware of these isolated situations within their classes and know exactly which students are affected most by this issue. If schools encouraged every student and parent to take *at least* one internet speed test in their household, we can provide the State with a plethora of internet speed data for Shelby County. Even better if we can have residents conducting one speed test every day next week at different times of the day. Being a school district official, you have the privilege of having a channel straight into the homes of the residents who need to hear this message the most. You also have a number of caring and dedicated educators who can probably come up with creative ways to incentivize students getting their households to take speeds tests if they are comfortable with that approach. Have students use the hashtags #Speedtestpromoweeek or #IndianaSpeedTest on social media. Everyone in our Shelby County communities can affect future positive change by conducting an internet speed test, or logging addresses with no service.

Speed test are best taken on wired (ethernet) connections, but wifi connections are acceptable too. People just need to make sure that cell data is turned **OFF** if they are taking a test on a mobile device! If the location does not have an internet connection without cellular/mobile data (i.e. hotspot only), they need to log that address as one with “no available service”. The link to the test is provided here: [Broadband Speed Test \(infarmbureau.org\)](#)

To learn more about how you can help Shelby County improve broadband, please visit [Broadband Ready Community Program –Shelby County Indiana Government Indiana](#) and also click on the left tab to read more information about the speed test.

We thank you for partnering with us next week on this effort. Let’s get more dots on the [map!](#)

Sincerely,

Shelby County Broadband Taskforce