

## Project Abstract

The primary goal is to connect students to the community around them by increasing access to the internet and the district's secure network to support innovative school-based learning opportunities. This goal will be achieved by connecting students to their district's network at community learning hubs where they are engaging in community relevant, inter-disciplinary, problem-based, project-based, and place-based (3P) learning models. Key objectives include increasing the number of free community internet access points that allow students to seamlessly connect to their district's network, as well as to increase the number of students interacting and engaging with innovative 3P learning models, and thereby demonstrating their mastery of competencies.

A new field-initiated model is currently underway in the Eastern Upper Peninsula Intermediate School District (EUPISD) where the EUP community has taken an innovative, interim approach to connectivity by providing students access to the internet through community anchor institutions. These learning hubs give students access to the internet and school learning management systems through a single sign-on, where students can access and share their 3P work. With this grant, the model will be additionally studied, adapted, and then implemented in regions across the state. Leveraging current infrastructure, data systems, and partnerships will ensure that the two key objectives will be achieved.

Grant funds will be used to coordinate resources, implement connectivity hardware and software, curate and create innovative learning model resources, and provide professional learning, technical assistance, and help desk services to educators, families, and community members.

Primary partners will include the Governor's Office, Eastern Upper Peninsula ISD, Michigan Association of Intermediate School Administrators, MiSTEM Network, Merit Network, and Connect Michigan. Additional partners are outlined further in the project narrative.