SJ Access: Third Amendment to the AT&T Hotspot Agreement

- Jill Bourne, City Librarian
- Ann Grabowski, Division Manager

📶 Agreement Overview

Overview of AT&T Agreement Outcomes:

- Authorizes staff to order up to $4.6M in devices and data plans, using $989K in American Rescue Plan funding, and $3.5M in ECF funding

- Reduces cost for monthly service from $25.32 per month to $14.32 per month

- Allows <u>up to</u> 45,000 lines of service
  - Seeks Council approval for 16,360 lines at this time

- Sets price for devices that may be purchased under the agreement

- Recognizes the Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF), if awarded, as the source of funding for all student/youth devices
  - Does not obligate City to expend funds for anticipated ECF award
  - Staff will return to Council if a significant award is not received
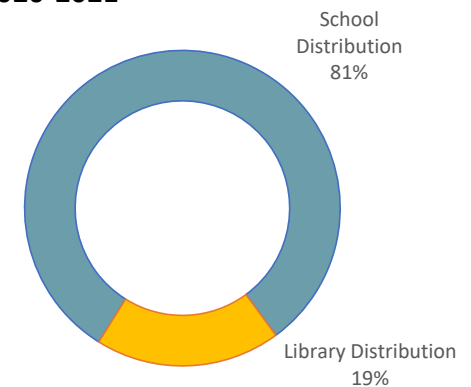
Digital Equity Priority

- Hotspot and device distribution is one element in overall Digital Equity strategy

- Other strategy elements continue to impact the Digital Equity landscape:
  - Digital Literacy programming and adoptions
  - Digital Inclusion Fund Partnerships and grant awards
  - Community WiFi in partnership with Access East Side and ESUHSD
  - Civic Facility WiFi improvements and expansions

- 2021-22 Follow-up to 2017 Digital Inclusion Study:
  - Update data, community engagement, and analysis of current connectivity needs
  - Map updated under- and unconnected household data with Equity Index and COVID-19 data

- Telecommunications partnerships
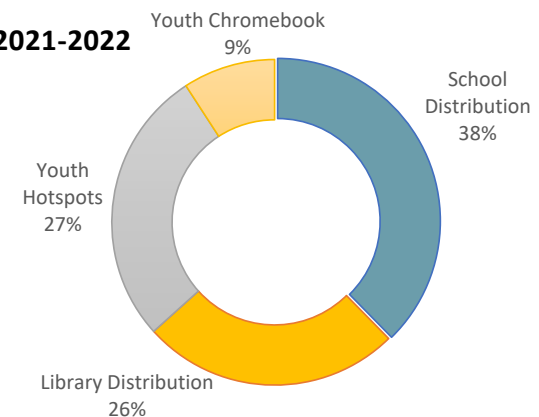
📶 Maximizing Access in 2021-2022

Proposed Device Allocations with Rationale:

- Increase support for schools from budgeted allocation of 3,200 to 6,160 lines of service (still a net reduction from 12,800 lines in 2020-21);

- To provide flexibility to respond to changes in school needs and increase devices available to families who may not receive a device through their school, **create a youth hotspot program** through the Library of 4,500 lines of service;

- To support transitional aged, homeless, and foster youth who may benefit from having a connected device rather than a hotspot and a laptop, **order 1,500 connected Chromebooks** available through the Library;

- To reduce wait times for general hotspots available through the Library, **increase** the supply from 3,000 hotspots to 4,200 hotspots.
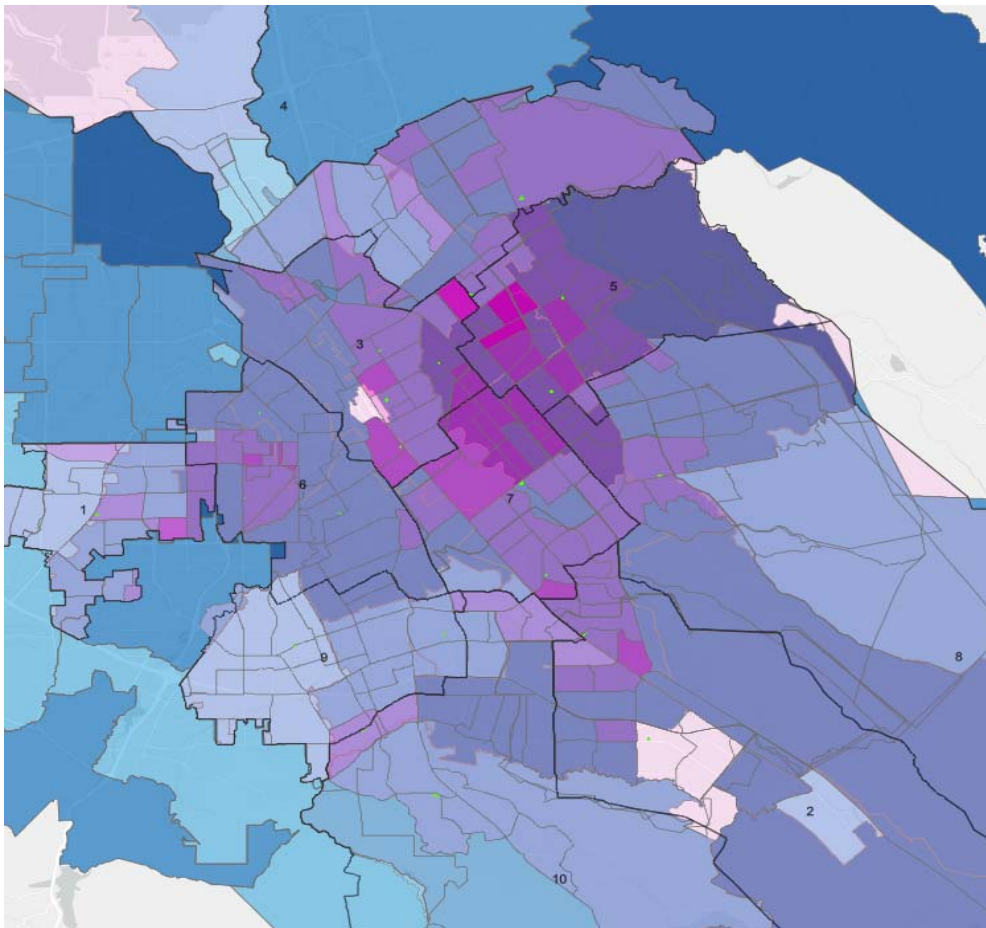
2020-2021

School Distribution 81%

Library Distribution 19%

2021-2022

Youth Chromebook 9%

School Distribution 38%

Youth Hotspots 27%

Library Distribution 26%

(((Distributing Devices through SJPL

Branches that will receive larger allocations of devices based on Digital Equity Need and COVID impact:

- Alum Rock
- Bascom
- Biblioteca Latinoamericana
- East Branch
- Edenvale
- Educational Park
- Evergreen
- Hillview
- Joyce Ellington
- Mt. Pleasant
- Seven Trees
- Tully

Full distribution plan will be reviewed by the Neighborhood Services & Education Committee

Image: Map of San Jose showing Digital Inclusion Index (pink hues) with COVID-19 Infection rates (blue). Areas with highest impact/need are shown in brightest shades of magenta. Library branches are shown in lime green.

Emergency Connectivity Fund

- One-time authorization of $7.1B to fund 100% of the costs for connectivity and devices provided for educational purposes.

- Library leveraged the existing relationship with AT&T to submit an application.

- Library submitted an application for $3.8M to fund all school-issued devices, and 4,500 Library-issued devices for youth/student households.

- Award is pending, but if successful, the award will provide $1.6M in cost savings and an expansion of devices available to students and the public.