



# McIntosh County Schools

**Dr. James G. Pulos**  
Superintendent

May 7, 2021

TO: All Families with Students Attending McIntosh County Schools

FROM: Dr. Jim Pulos, Superintendent of Schools, McIntosh County Schools

SUBJECT: Emergency Broadband (EBB) Internet Access /Government Assistance with Internet Access

The Department of Education and Federal Communications Commission is offering up to \$50.00 credit each month toward broadband internet access to homes of approved applicants. There is a large amount of money set aside by the federal government for this program, and the funds will be utilized to make these payments until they are exhausted. The goal of the Emergency Broadband (EBB) funds is for all students to have equal access to broadband internet at home so that each student has an equal opportunity to be a successful learner.

Because all students of McIntosh County Schools receive free breakfast and lunch, regardless of income, all families with students attending McIntosh County Schools may be eligible for these funds. Applications will become available starting on **May 12, 2021** by applying for the program through the National Verifier at [GetEmergencyBroadband.org](https://www.fcc.gov/broadbandbenefit). For more information, please visit <https://www.fcc.gov/broadbandbenefit>.

As a service provider and partner with the school system, Darien Telephone Company will work with families to gain broadband access in their home. Please contact Darien Telephone Company for more details and see the attached press release on this topic.

Dr. Jim Pulos  
Superintendent of Schools  
McIntosh County School System

DARIEN TELEPHONE COMPANY PARTICIPATES IN FCC EMERGENCY  
BROADBAND BENEFIT PROGRAM TO ASSIST CUSTOMERS FINANCIALLY  
IMPACTED BY COVID-19

Darien Telephone Company, the leading broadband provider in McIntosh County, announced its participation in the FCC Emergency Broadband Benefit Program. (EBB) Consumers can begin applying and enrolling on May 12, 2021. Apply for the EBB program through the National Verifier at [www.GetEmergencyBroadband.org](http://www.GetEmergencyBroadband.org).

The EBB is a temporary, \$3.2 billion federal program designed to help households struggling to pay for Internet service during the pandemic. The program provides eligible current and new Darien Internet customers with active Internet service up to \$50 off their monthly bill.

A household may be eligible if one member qualifies for the LifeLine Program, receives benefits under the free and reduced-price school lunch program, received Federal Pell Grant during the current award year, meets the eligibility criteria for a participating providers' existing low-income or Covid-19 program or experienced a substantial loss of income service since February 29, 2020.

The EBB Program is a temporary emergency federal government benefit program operated by the FCC and, upon its conclusion, customers will be subject to the provider's regular rates, terms and Conditions. An eligible household may obtain broadband service supported by EBB from any participating provider of their choosing. You may transfer the EBB program benefit to another Participating provider at any time. If the household does not use the service, they will not be eligible for reimbursement until the service is used.

"Participating in the FCC's Emergency Broadband Benefit program is just one more way we are helping customers who have been financially impacted by the pandemic stay connected to their loved ones, work and school during this challenging time," said Mary Lou Forsyth, Darien Telephone Company President. "Many individuals and families in McIntosh County are facing unique financial challenges right now, and we are proud to partner with the FCC to keep them connected to what matters the most."