

# Internet Access (Children Eligible for Free School Meals) Bill

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**B I L L**

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Place a duty on the Secretary of State to ensure that all children eligible for free school meals have a broadband connection and facilities to access the internet at home; and for connected purposes.

**B**E IT ENACTED by the Queen’s most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

**1 Duty on the Secretary of State**

- (1) *The Secretary of State has a duty to take all reasonable steps to ensure that all children eligible for free school meals in England have at home –*
- (a) *a broadband connection; and*
  - (b) *facilities to access the internet.*

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- (2) In this Act—

“a broadband connection” means an internet connection with a minimum download speed of 10 megabits per second and a minimum upload speed of 1 megabit per second;

“facilities to access the internet” means a computer, tablet or equivalent device able to connect to the internet via the broadband connection and enable a child reasonably to participate fully in school work which relies on, or benefits from, an internet connection;

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“eligible for free school meals” means eligible for free lunches under section 512ZB of the Education Act 1996;

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“at home” means the child’s usual place of residence, or, if they have multiple regular residences, each such residence.

**2 Extent, commencement and short title**

- (1) This Act extends to England and Wales only.
- (2) This Act comes into force on the day on which it is passed.
- (3) This Act may be cited as Internet Access (Children Eligible for Free School Meals) Act 2020.

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## B I L L

To place a duty on the Secretary of State to ensure that all children eligible for free school meals have a broadband connection and facilities to access the internet at home; and for connected purposes.

*Presented by Siobhain McDonagh  
Supported by Julie Elliott*

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*Ordered, by The House of Commons,  
to be Printed, 15th June 2020.*

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