

Marion County Board of Education

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To Whom It May Concern:

I want to express my full support for the effort of Tombigbee Electric Cooperative to bring high speed broadband to Marion County. The students of Marion County would benefit greatly with access to high speed broadband. As a school district, we are limited by our students not having access to high speed broadband or, in some cases, no access to broadband period.

With high speed broadband in place, we would be able to offer our students several options that are not currently available. We have several digital programs that are available at school only. With the successful installation by Tombigbee Electric Cooperative, our students would then have these online digital programs available to them at home. At school we offer online coursework, online credit recovery coursework, and online supplemental instructional programs that allow students to work on areas in which they are deficient. If our students have access to this at home with the installation of the high speed broadband, it would be a game changer for our schools.

We have just completed installation of wireless high speed broadband in all of our schools. We are continually pushing the limits of the bandwidth available at several of our schools. Our students have this available during school but that only accounts for about six hours out of the day. The possibilities are limitless if this could be expanded to access at home as well. As we continue to integrate technology into our curriculum, the access to high speed broadband at home will be a requirement for us to move where we need to be as a school district.

Tombigbee Electric Cooperative is a huge part of our community and a great supporter of Marion County Schools. I am proud to support their effort to constantly improve and develop this area for our families.

Sincerely,



Ryan Hollingsworth, Superintendent
Marion County Schools