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**Stockton Unified School District Partners with Sprint and the 1Million Project Foundation to Provide Free High-Speed Internet Access and Mobile Devices to Thousands of Stockton Unified High School Students**

(Stockton, CA) – Stockton Unified School District (SUSD) is proud to announce a partnership with Sprint and the 1Million Project Foundation to provide more than 3,150 laptops and nearly 1,700 hotspots for FREE to SUSD high school students during the week of October 21st – 25<sup>th</sup>. Through this partnership and SUSD’s Chromebook Refresh Project, thousands of Stockton Unified high school students will now have access to high-speed internet at home.

Volunteers from the District and PG&E will be distributing hotspots and/or laptops to 600-800 students per day this week. Distribution will take place at SUSD comprehensive high schools on the following days:

- Tuesday, 10/22: Franklin High School: 7:30 am – 2:00 pm
- Wednesday, 10/23: Chavez High School: 7:30 am – 2:00 pm
- Thursday, 10/24: Edison High School: 7:30 am – 12:15 pm
- Friday, 10/25: Stagg High School: 7:30am – 2:00pm

“Students spend more time out of our schools than in them. Thanks to the 1 Million Project Foundation, the District’s investments in new technology at our school sites, and the hard work of SUSD staff, our students will have greater access to the resources they need to succeed in a 21<sup>st</sup> century economy,” said Josh Pollack, Executive Director of Special Projects in Stockton Unified School District. “By partnering with the 1 Million Project to provide home internet access and donating thousands of existing laptops back to our students, we are helping to close the opportunity gap by ensuring greater access to the digital resources our students deserve – ensuring they have the tools to thrive inside and outside our school doors.”

Based on a beginning-of-year survey high school students took to identify need, access, and eligibility as to whether students have and would want internet and device usage at home, 25% of students either lack internet access or can only access the internet from a cell phone; and 40% of students do not have access to a computer at home, with another 20% sharing a computer with family/others. This project will help ensure our students are provided more equitable internet access (via a free hotspot) and/or a laptop at home to be able to complete assignments, research colleges and careers, complete financial, aid, engage with online test prep tools, and to be able to access our online curriculum resources.

“The prevalence of technology in our society today means that more and more schools have turned to digital curricula to arm students with the skills they need to succeed after they leave high school,” said Doug Michelman, president of the 1Million Project Foundation. “Teachers today are using video games, apps and social media to connect with and teach students. That connection extends well beyond the classroom, but only for those that have internet access at home. Students whose families cannot afford internet connectivity are at a severe disadvantage. With the support of Sprint, we are working hard to make a meaningful impact in eligible students’ lives by providing both a device and connectivity to help level the playing field.”

According to the 1Million Project, more than 5 million families in the U.S. do not have reliable internet connectivity at home. With 70% of teachers assigning online homework and assignments, this creates an excellent homework and achievement gap for students. This disconnect leads to dramatic inequitable outcomes during significant years of a student’s life. Having access to the internet means more time to learn, imagine, create, accomplish, and graduate.

### **About the 1Million Project Foundation**

The 1Million Project Foundation will help 1 million high school students who do not have reliable Internet access at home reach their full potential by giving them mobile devices and 10 GB of free high-speed Internet access per month. Today’s learning environment requires 24/7 internet access in order to study, learn, explore and complete school work from home. Students who cannot connect when they leave school are at a disadvantage, and their chances of staying on track in school are significantly limited. By working with school districts across America, the 1Million Project Foundation seeks to remove a significant hurdle in these students’ lives by ensuring they have the same access to the internet as any other student so that they, too, have a chance at achieving their full potential. For more information, visit [www.1MillionProject.org](http://www.1MillionProject.org).

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