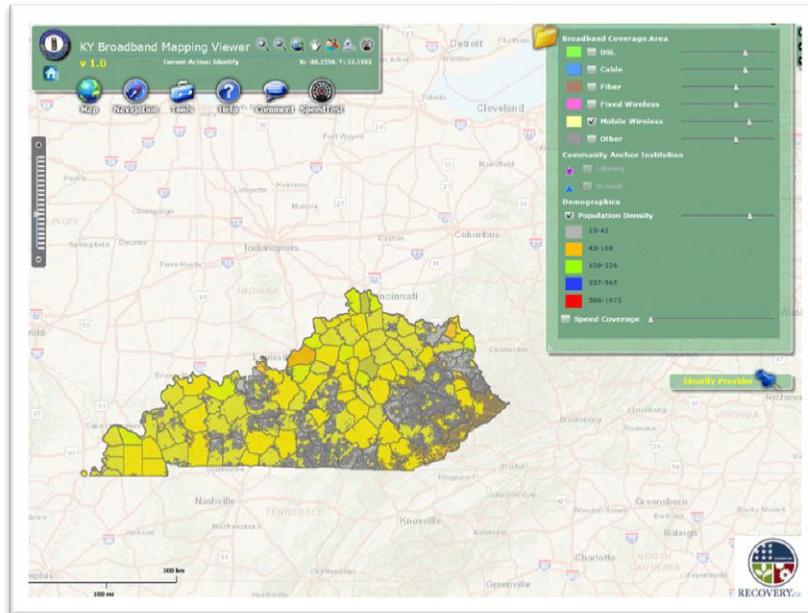


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# KENTUCKY IN THE NEWS

The Kentucky Geographic Alliance – October 2012

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According to an article written by [The Lexington Herald Leader](#), Kentucky ranks only 40<sup>th</sup> out of the 50 states for access to high speed internet. The importance of high-speed internet has grown tremendously in the past decade and thus there has been a growing need to build our technological infrastructure. To quote Brian Kiser, director of the Kentucky Commonwealth Office of Broadband Outreach and Development, from the news article, “It’s what water, electricity and roads were in the past.”

How important is broadband in our world today? This is something to ask your students; see whether they agree or disagree with Kiser’s comments. Have your students make connections between broadband internet coverage and the impact it has on economics and business. Take a look at [the map](#) being provided by The Kentucky Commonwealth Office of Technology (COT) and make connections about why certain areas have coverage and others do not. How does geography play a role in that? Notice that less populated areas don’t have as much coverage (turn on population density), and mountainous areas have the least coverage. In some locations the best internet service is alongside major roads, for example mobile wireless along I-64 in Rowan County. Take a look out how Kentucky compares with the rest of [the nation](#).

This map is a great example of the way Geographic Information Systems (GIS) can be used in the classroom. The KGA recently worked with ESRI in signing an ESRI Educational Site License which will make ArcGIS technology available to all public and private school students in the state. For more information see the [press release](#).

- *Lexington Herald Leader*: [“Groups Working to Increase High-Speed Internet Access in Kentucky”](#)
- *Bowling Green Daily News*: [“The Need for Speed: Network Expanding”](#)