



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GEUS INTERNET CONNECTING THE COMMUNITY

(November 12, 2020-Greenville, Texas) GEUS Internet, Greenville's community-owned Internet provider, was nearing its 20th anniversary when a new, unanticipated need in the community arose: finding a way to connect Greenville children to online learning during a pandemic.

Greenville ISD, like school districts across the nation, faced a momentous challenge to find new ways to continue to educate students outside of the traditional classroom. Providing students with the ability to upload and download class work remotely using electronic devices provided by GISD was the obvious path forward, but some families couldn't afford high speed Internet.

In March, GEUS moved quickly to provide free WiFi hotspots throughout the community in public areas such as parks and downtown. This provided a temporary solution for many students while community leaders sought a way to provide high-speed Internet directly to their homes.

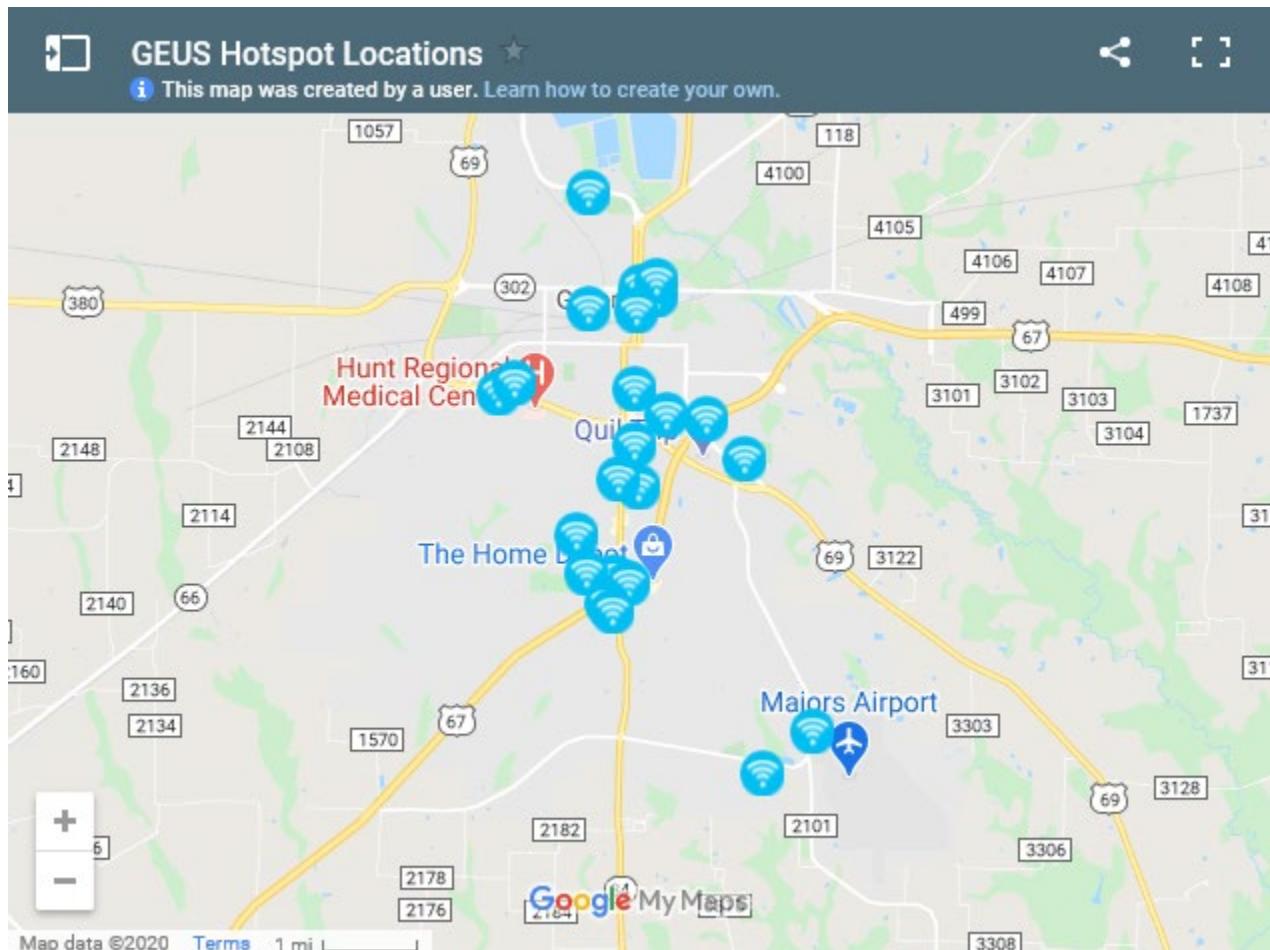
Several community partners stepped forward to provide support to connect GISD students. L3Harris, the local Altrusa Chapter and the City of Greenville through CARES Act combined funding to ensure GISD students had access to online learning.

The GEUS Board approved an Internet package that combined adequate speeds and bulk pricing that could be paid monthly by GISD.

GEUS quickly began connecting service for GISD students, including some homes that had never before had Internet service, opening new doors to online learning.

"We are grateful to this fine community for supporting our students and our schools," GISD Superintendent Dr. Demetrus Liggins said. "This will have a lifelong impact on our students."

“This community was able to offer its own community-owned Internet services in partnership with some great local organizations to quickly fill a critical need for GISD students,” said GEUS General Manager Alicia Hooks. “That is powerful.”



(30)

GEUS became the first municipally-owned electric utility in Texas in 1891. 110 years later it became the first municipally-owned cable television and high-speed Internet operation in Texas. GEUS offers these services to the 26,000 plus consumer\owners living in the Greenville, Texas area located approximately 50 miles East of Dallas, Texas. GEUS is uniquely governed by an autonomous board of trustees that is appointed by the Greenville City Council. Steps were taken by the Texas Legislature in 1989 to allow this type of governing structure. For more information about our 125+ years of public power history or the services we offer, please visit our web site at www.geus.org