



## Norris School District 160

25211 South 68th  
Firth, NE 68358

**Dr. Brian Maschmann**, Superintendent  
**Dr. Derrick Joel**, Assistant Superintendent

Phone: (402) 791-0000  
Fax: (402) 791-0025

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February 20, 2023

Dear selection committee,

I am writing this letter to express my strong support for the expansion of high-speed internet access to the Cortland community, which is served by the Norris School District 160. As the technology coordinator for the school district, I have seen first hand how rural communities are in desperate need of high speed internet. The COVID-19 public health emergency accelerated this need. It is essential for rural communities to have access to reliable and fast internet connectivity in order to keep up with the demands of the modern world.

In today's society, access to the internet has become an essential tool for communication, education, and business. With the rise of remote work, e-learning, and telemedicine, it is more important than ever that the Cortland community has access to high-speed internet. Without this access, our community risks falling behind in terms of economic growth, education, and healthcare. Our School district recently implemented a 1-1 Chromebook project K-12. Our families desperately need high speed internet access within their homes for students to be able to complete their required school homework and projects.

Furthermore, high-speed internet can also serve as a valuable tool for attracting new businesses and residents to our rural communities. With the ability to work and learn from anywhere, many people are looking for communities that offer reliable and fast internet access. By investing in high-speed internet, we can make Cortland more attractive to these individuals and businesses, which can have a positive impact on our local economy.

I understand that the cost of expanding internet access can be significant, but I believe that it is an investment in the future of our community. I urge you to support the expansion of high-speed internet access in our town, and to work towards making it a reality.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Noel Erskine  
Technology Director  
Norris School District 160