

Midstate Messenger

MIDSTATE COMMUNICATIONS COOPERATIVE

January 2025



Calling All High School Seniors!
Looking for ways to save on school tuition?
Apply for the Midstate Communications Scholarship!



The Midstate Board of Directors is thrilled to announce that we will be awarding seven, \$750 scholarships to members of the class of 2025 in the Midstate Communications service area. You can find the application now on our website at www.midstatesd.net. Be sure to submit yours by the March 1st deadline!

January 1 - OFFICES CLOSED

January 5 - Disconnect of all accounts with a 30 day balance

January 20 - OFFICES CLOSED

January 21 - Bills due by 12:00 PM. Overdue notices mailed out

January 31 - February bills are mailed out and due February 20th



Sign up for



www.midstatesd.net
or
Call/Text 605-778-6221



Stream Like a Pro!
TV, Movies & More!

Training in January

Starting this January, Midstate Communications is thrilled to introduce FREE Tech Talks to our service area! This month, we're diving into Streaming—a fresh, exciting way to watch your favorite shows and movies. Join us for a hands-on experience guided by our knowledgeable staff, who will walk you through the world of streaming and answer any questions you have. Don't miss out! Register today by visiting our website, calling, or texting our office. We can't wait to see you there!

January 14th Kimball Midstate East Office 1:00 PM

January 21st Platte Community Center 1:00 PM

January 23rd Chamberlain Community Center 1:00 PM

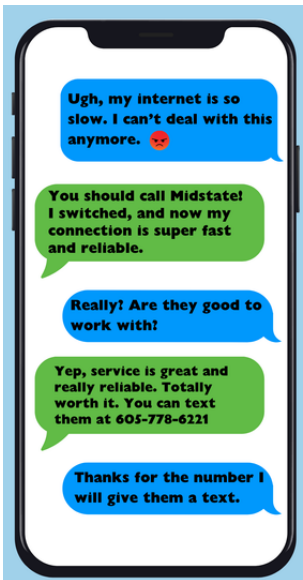
Are you an avid photographer? Midstate Communications is teaming up with Santel Communications to showcase the beauty of the area on our upcoming 2025 Central Connections Telephone Directory. The winner will receive a \$100 cash prize. The deadline to submit photos is January 24th. Finalists will be displayed on Midstate's & Santel's Facebook pages for voting. See all contest rules on our website at www.midstatesd.net



FOCUS
on taking the winning photo

ENTER OUR DIRECTORY COVER PHOTO CONTEST

Fiber Internet vs 5G Wireless Internet vs Starlink Internet



There's a dizzying number of internet companies and options available to consumers across the country in the 2020s. Three of the most talked-about technologies are fiber-optic internet, 5G wireless internet, and Starlink satellite internet. Each of these promises internet users high speeds and reliability—but are they genuinely equal?

To help you navigate the bewildering world of internet technologies, we break down the key differences between these three options and explain why fiber internet, such as Midstate Communications advanced fiber network, is the clear winner for most users.

Fiber uses light signals transmitted through tiny, ultra-thin strands of glass-like fibers to send data from servers to your home or business at nearly the speed of light! Its physical cables are sturdy and flexible, typically installed underground to protect them.

Thanks to its sophisticated materials, fiber is extremely reliable, offering a connection that's not easily affected by weather or other interference that plagues other forms of internet. Fiber can also handle massive amounts of bandwidth, supporting multiple users and devices without slowdowns, making it perfect for households with multiple users or smart devices. This unlimited bandwidth capacity and fiber's amazingly low latency (around 1-2 milliseconds) make video conference calling, streaming TV and movies, online gaming, and watching and sharing videos a frustration-free experience!

Next, we turn to another internet option that promises high-speed internet in ads, billboards, and mailers: 5G wireless internet. 5G is a cellular technology—yes, like the technology used for cell phone calling. It utilizes high-frequency radio waves to deliver data to mobile phones, home routers, and other connected devices. 5G is “wireless,” meaning there's no physical connection required between the user's device and the network.

5G's speed can vary depending on network congestion from too many users at one time, distance from the tower, and environmental interference (like trees, walls, or buildings). 5G's latency is far higher than fiber's. High latency will make more intense online applications like gaming and video streaming an aggravating chore for many. 5G just can't match fiber's stellar experience.

The last commonly considered internet option is Starlink, operated by SpaceX. It uses a group of low Earth orbit satellites to “beam” internet signals back down to Earth. Users need a satellite dish installed at their location.

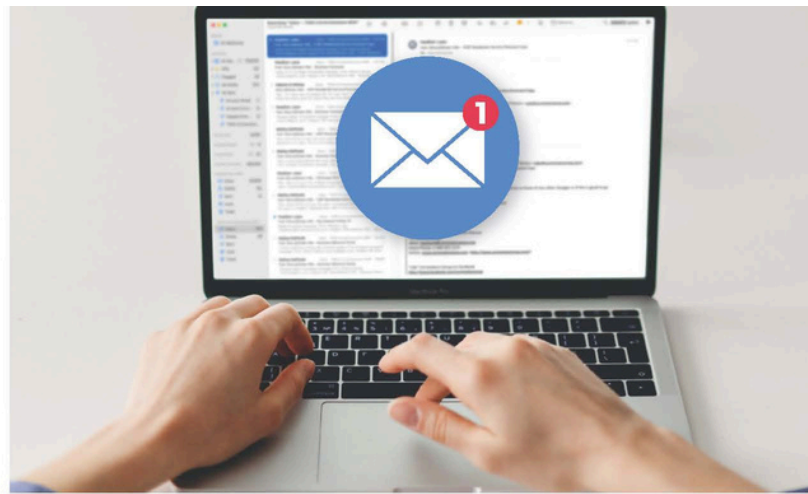
The technology sounds impressive, but download speeds are anything from futuristic from around 50 to 300 Mbps. The internet speeds can drop considerably with weather issues leaving customers without any internet.

In short, fiber is the gold standard of reliable, high-speed internet. Should you have any questions or would like to learn more, reach out to our knowledgeable customer support and technical specialists at Midstate Communications.

Cold and snowy weather usually results in much more time spent indoors. (Unless, of course, it's a day when you and the kids head for the hills with sleds in your trunk and boots on your feet.)

During all the hours your family is cozying up at home, you'll be keeping busy with lots of online activities—including streaming, gaming, chatting, posting, studying, working, browsing, and shopping. Which means you'll need super-fast internet this winter almost as much you'll need a good furnace.

**For speeds up to 1 GIG,
CALL OR TEXT 605-778-6221**



GO FROM MAILBOX TO INBOX WITH **PAPERLESS BILLING & AUTOMATIC PAYMENT**

CHOOSE PAPERLESS BILLING ALONG WITH AUTO BANK OR AUTO CREDIT CARD AND GET A ONE-TIME \$20 BILL CREDIT*

Now's the time to switch to Midstate Communications paperless billing, which means you'll receive your statements via email rather than "snail mail."

With auto bank or auto credit card and paperless billing, you'll have one less bill in your mailbox each month, less clutter on your kitchen counter, and receive a recurring \$1.50 credit every month on your invoice! Plus, you'll help us use less paper and save some trees.

1. Complete and return the auto bank or auto credit card form on the back of this sheet.
2. Go to <https://estatement.midstatesd.net> to set up eBill
3. Once logged in, click on SETTINGS.
4. At the top click on GENERAL.
5. Choose WEB BILL ONLY and we will set up your \$1.50 monthly discount and give you a one-time \$20 discount!



**12 month eBill commitment required.*

MIDSTATE COMMUNICATIONS, INC
Customer Authorization for Direct Payment via ACH or Credit Card

Direct Payment via ACH is the transfer of funds from a consumer account for the purpose of making a payment. If you wish to have your account set up on Direct Payment from your Bank Account or Credit Card, please complete the Authorization form below and return to: Midstate Communications, Inc. PO Box 48 Kimball, SD 57355.

Name _____ Account # _____

CHECK ONE: New Payment Change Information Cancel Auto Bank/Auto Credit Card

I (we) agree that the authorized MONTHLY debit date will be as elected: 4th 10th 19th

I (we) understand that this is a recurring entry request and that debits will occur at substantially regular intervals, as chosen above, without further affirmative action by the receiver.

AUTOMATIC BANK WITHDRAWAL:

CHECK ONE: Checking Account Savings Account

Depository (Bank) Name: _____ Routing Number: _____

Name on Account: _____ Account Number: _____

Please enclose a personalized **VOIDED CHECK or an account verification letter from your financial institution containing their letterhead.*

AUTOMATIC CREDIT CARD WITHDRAWAL:

CHECK ONE: VISA MASTERCARD DISCOVER AMERICAN EXPRESS

Credit Card Number: _____ Exp. Date: _____ CVV # _____

**I agree to inform Midstate when my card expires and provide them with a new card number and updated expiration date.*

I (we) authorize Midstate Communications, Inc. to electronically debit my(our) account and, if necessary, to electronically credit my(our) account to correct erroneous debits to the account listed above. I (we) agree that ACH transactions I (we) authorize comply with all applicable laws.

I (we) agree that the authorized debit amount will be: The balance due on the account on the elected debit date stated above.

I (we) understand that this authorization will remain in full force and in effect until I (we) notify Midstate Communications, Inc., in writing, that I (we) wish to revoke this authorization. I (we) understand that Midstate Communications, Inc. requires a minimum of five business days prior notice to cancel this authorization.

Customer(s) Printed Name(s): _____

Customer(s) Signature(s): _____ Date: _____

Go PAPERLESS? YES NO

If yes, please go to www.midstatesd.net – Click on My Bill Pay – Sign up for Estatement. You will need your latest invoice with the account number and the amount due. Once signed up, you will need to change your invoice preference to WEB BILL ONLY. Click on SETTINGS and at the top click on GENERAL. Choose to receive “Web bill only” Once your sign up is complete, you will begin to receive a \$1.50 per month discount on your bill!