



## 2016-17 New Mexico K-12 Connectivity Initiative

### Frequently Asked Questions:

#### What is the New Mexico K-12 Connectivity Initiative?

The 2016-2017 New Mexico K-12 Connectivity Initiative is intended to help K-12 public school districts throughout New Mexico upgrade their bandwidth capacity to better connect their classrooms. This project will help ensure that schools can support not only digital learning for students but also computer-based assessments and tools and resources to make administrative functions and reporting more efficient and accurate. In 2014, the state legislature of New Mexico established the Broadband Deficiencies Correction Program (BDCP) of the Public School Facilities Authority (PSFA) and allocated up to \$10,000,000 per year for five years in state funds for the purpose of improving external and internal (IA and WAN) network connectivity at school sites with the greatest infrastructure needs through an “E-rate state matching fund”.

These “E-rate state matching funds” will be allocated by the New Mexico Public School Capital Outlay Council (PSCOC), with assistance from the Department of Public Education and the Department of Information Technology and EducationSuperHighway, to help school districts and charter schools with network infrastructure needs.

#### Which New Mexico educational entities are eligible to participate?

Public school districts and charter schools for grades K-12 are eligible to work with the New Mexico Public School Facilities Authority, New Mexico Department of Public Education, New Mexico Department of Information Technology and EducationSuperHighway as part of the New Mexico K-12 Connectivity Initiative. Private schools and Adult Education centers are not eligible.

#### How can New Mexico public school districts and charter schools participate in the New Mexico Upgrade Project?

All school districts and charter schools wishing to participate should sign up for an introductory “Kick-Off Call” with EducationSuperHighway and PSFA in June-August 2016.

Schedule a meeting by selecting a day/time through this link:

<http://tinyurl.com/nmteam>

#### What support will New Mexico K-12 public school districts and charter schools receive from the New Mexico K-12 Connectivity Initiative group?

The New Mexico K-12 Connectivity Initiative group consists of three New Mexico state agencies that work in partnership with EducationSuperHighway in support of the governor’s statewide initiative to improve broadband connectivity.



The Public School Facilities Authority (PSFA) plays the following roles:

- Supporting public school districts and charter schools in moving through the E-rate application, funding and reimbursement process
- Communication with commercial carriers and construction companies to explore suitable options for districts and charter schools with sites in need of broadband upgrades
- Approving and distributing New Mexico E-rate state matching funds
- Supporting implementation of the new network solution
- Providing the lead technical assistance in drafting of RFP

The Public Education Department (PED) plays the following roles:

- Serving as the lead E-rate technical assistance contact for public school districts and charter schools as they apply for E-rate via Form 470s and Form 471s

The Department of Information Technology (DoIT) plays the following role:

- Providing technical review of district or charter solutions

EducationSuperHighway (ESH) plays the following roles:

- Collaborating with the district or charter school and other members of the New Mexico Connectivity Working group to build a plan to upgrade the district or charter school's network based on district needs and available provider or self-provisioned options
- Building a case for funding so that all stakeholders understand the budget needed for the upgrade
- Assisting in selecting the best provider during the RFP process
- Communication with commercial carriers and construction companies to explore suitable options for public school districts and charter schools with sites in need of broadband upgrades

**Can we participate in the New Mexico Upgrade project even though we did not file for E-rate in 2015-16?**

Yes. You are encouraged to [schedule an introductory call](#) with EducationSuperHighway's team so that you can be included in the Project even if you have not filed for E-rate in the past.

**Aside from the IA and WAN circuits that may need to be upgraded under this project and leveraging available New Mexico E-rate State Matching funds, are other hardware included such as routers, switches, and firewalls?**

The New Mexico K-12 Connectivity Initiative is focused on what the FCC classifies under its E-rate program as [Category One](#) purchases; this includes Data Transmission Services and Internet Access along with Voice Services. Internal network components, including access points, internal routers, hubs and switches are considered part of Category Two purchases. The Broadband

Deficiencies Correction Program (BDCP) of the Public School Facilities Authority (PSFA) covers Category Two upgrades. Contact PSFA for more information on State matching funds.

### **Where can we find our USAC/E-rate Entity Number?**

The USAC/E-rate Entity Number is the same as your Billed Entity Number (BEN). You can look up your USAC/E-rate Entity Number at:

[http://www.sl.universalservice.org/Utilities/BilledEntitySearch\\_Public.asp](http://www.sl.universalservice.org/Utilities/BilledEntitySearch_Public.asp)

- Select an entity type
- Enter the full name of your organization or the partial name with % for a wildcard search
- Then click "Search"

If you do not have a USAC/E-rate Entity Number (Billed Entity Number or BEN), please create your entity number following the instructions available at:

<http://www.universalservice.org/sl/applicants/beforeyoubegin/entity-number.aspx>

### **What is the difference between "underground" and "buried" installation of fiber network cables?**

Underground is in conduit. Buried is not in conduit and tends to not be trenched aka dug as deep as underground fiber.

<http://www.thefoa.org/tech/ref/OSP/cable.html>