

ARIZONA BROADBAND FOR EDUCATION INITIATIVE

2023 Q4 Update

The Arizona Broadband for Education Initiative is a partnership between the Governor's Office of Education, the Arizona Department of Education, the Arizona Corporation Commission, and the nonprofit organization EducationSuperhighway. The program's goal is to ensure that every public K-12 instructional building in the state is connected via high-speed and reliable broadband connections to enable digital learning in the classroom.

One major component of the Initiative includes supporting schools and libraries as they take advantage of the federal Schools and Libraries (E-rate) Program. The E-rate program provides discounts of up to 90% of the monthly cost of telecommunications services to keep students and library patrons connected to high-speed broadband. It is administered by the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC), designated by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).

The E-rate Modernization Order, adopted by the FCC in July 2014, allows states to establish "matching funds" that may contribute up to ten percent in funding to subsidize the cost of Category I "special construction" projects. If a state provides eligible schools and libraries with funding for special construction charges for high-speed broadband that meets the FCC's long-term connectivity targets, the E-rate Program will increase an applicant's discount rate for these charges up to an additional ten percent to match the state funding on a one-to-one dollar basis. The combination of E-rate and state match funding can cover up to 100% of an applicant's out-of-pocket cost for the infrastructure necessary to supply high-speed internet.

In March 2017, the Arizona Corporation Commission updated the Arizona Universal Service Fund (AUSF) rules to provide \$8M in funding for "Special Construction" projects in Arizona. Used in combination with the E-rate program, this funding will result in approximately \$150M in new construction projects within the state. In April 2017 the Arizona State Legislature approved an additional \$3M for "Special Construction" projects.

May 2023 the Arizona Legislature approved \$5M in additional funding to bring the total investment in our schools and libraries to \$13M.

To date, we have completed \$130M in broadband projects across the state providing high-speed internet access via internet services providers and wide area networks.

Erate Broadband Special Construction “Arizona Broadband for Education Initiative”

FundingYear	Students Served	Projects In Process or Awaiting Approval	Erate Portion	State Portion	School Portion	Total Paid Out	Left to Complete
2017-2018	96,652	\$13,606,423.92	\$12,411,066.38	\$1,043,757.54	\$149,800.00	\$1,043,757.54	\$0.00
2018-2019	67,941	\$59,433,788.20	\$53,758,143.73	\$4,612,017.45	\$979,597.31	\$4,612,017.45	\$0.00
2019-2020	36,096	\$22,474,314.66	\$20,284,032.69	\$2,313,603.54	\$2,780.10	\$2,313,603.54	\$0.00
2020-2021	19,232	\$7,439,882.98	\$7,005,750.01	\$580,394.73	\$21,600.00	\$341,009.73	\$239,385.00
2021-2022	66,945	\$21,213,107.57	\$19,739,120.09	\$1,540,833.84	\$51,467.00	\$898,447.52	\$642,386.32
2022-2023	24,150	\$6,263,134.03	\$5,726,658.90	\$772,963.20	\$0.00	\$739,629.30	\$33,333.90
2023-2024	1,894	\$1,242,994.00	\$1,131,124.54	\$291,869.46	\$0.00	\$180,000.00	\$111,869.46
2024-2025	Deadline to submit - February 28, 2024			\$0.00	0	\$180,000.00	
Program	312,910	\$131,673,645.36	\$120,055,896.34	\$11,155,439.76	\$1,205,244.41	\$10,308,465.08	\$1,026,974.68
AVAILABLE				\$4,844,560.24			

Numbers reflect an additional \$5M from the 2023 Arizona Legislative session.

Explanation of columns

Funding Year	The Erate funding year runs from July 1 through June 30.
Students Served	Number of students impacted by the project.
Projects in Process or Awaiting Approval	Projects that have been submitted and are complete, in process or awaiting approval by the FCC. Denied and cancelled projects have been removed from the total in order to provide a more accurate picture.
Erate Portion	Portion the Federal Erate Program contributes to Arizona.
State Portion	Portion Arizona taxpayers contribute to the project.
School Portion	Schools with an 80% NSLP or higher have zero cost.
Total Paid Out	Total amount paid from the \$8M contribution by the Arizona Corporation Commission and \$8M from the Arizona budget.
Left to Complete	Approved projects under construction.

Full List of Projects

Funding Year	Applicant Name	Discount Percentage	Student Count	Total Filed	Erate Portion	State Portion	School Portion	Status
2017	Agua Fria UHSD	60%	7649	\$749,000.00	\$524,300.00	\$74,900.00	\$149,800.00	Complete
2017	Apache County Consortium	85%	4062	\$8,379,313.67	\$7,750,865.14	\$628,448.53	\$0.00	Complete
2017	Arizona Call A Teen Center	90%	261	\$61,917.00	\$58,821.15	\$3,095.85	\$0.00	Complete
2017	Bicentennial Un H S (Salome HS)	90%	113	\$25,303.25	\$24,038.09	\$1,265.16	\$0.00	Complete
2017	Combs Unified School District 44	80%	4634	\$360,000.00	\$324,000.00	\$36,000.00	\$0.00	Complete
2017	Payson Unif School Dist 10	80%	2843	\$159,000.00	\$143,100.00	\$15,900.00	\$0.00	Complete
2017	Santa Cruz Valley HS #35	90%	395	\$874,320.00	\$830,604.00	\$43,716.00	\$0.00	Complete
2017	Somerton School District	90%	2973	\$236,000.00	\$224,200.00	\$11,800.00	\$0.00	Complete
2017	Stanfield School District 24	90%	529	\$950,000.00	\$902,500.00	\$47,500.00	\$0.00	Complete
2017	Tombstone USD	90%	970	\$500.00	\$475.00	\$25.00	\$0.00	Complete
2017	Vail School District	60%	12752	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$200.00	\$0.00	Complete
2017	Yavapai County Education Technology Consortium	80%	26000	\$1,808,320.00	\$1,627,488.00	\$180,832.00	\$0.00	Complete
2018	Antelope Union High School	90%	230	\$471,778.85	\$448,189.91	\$23,588.94	\$0.00	Complete
2018	Apache County Consortium	85%	0	\$1,391,054.00	\$1,286,724.95	\$104,329.05	\$0.00	Complete
2018	Cedar Hills - Hackberry	90%	123	\$160,000.00	\$152,000.00	\$8,000.00	\$0.00	Complete
2018	Cochise Elementary School District	80%	87	\$153,300.00	\$138,000.00	\$15,300.00	\$0.00	Complete
2018	Cottonwood - Oak Creek	80%	2079	\$240,559.81	\$216,503.82	\$24,055.99	\$0.00	Complete
2018	Cupertino PLA	90%	5	\$13,317.59	\$12,651.71	\$665.88	\$0.00	Complete
2018	Discovery Plus Academy	80%	119	\$14,518.29	\$11,614.63	\$1,451.83	\$1,451.83	Complete
2018	Ganado Unified District 20	90%	1513	\$472,042.64	\$448,440.51	\$23,602.13	\$0.00	Complete
2018	Globe USD	80%	1668	\$585,716.00	\$527,144.40	\$58,571.60	\$0.00	Complete
2018	Grand Canyon USD	80%	283	\$5,660,200.37	\$5,094,180.34	\$566,020.03	\$0.00	Complete
2018	Holbrook USD	90%	2066	\$82,432.53	\$78,310.90	\$4,121.63	\$0.00	Complete
2018	Lake Havasu USD	80%	5508	\$842,004.00	\$757,803.60	\$84,200.40	\$0.00	Complete
2018	LaPaz County	90%	0	\$3,974,976.00	\$3,776,227.20	\$198,748.80	\$0.00	Complete
2018	Laveen ESD	90%	6831	\$900,000.00	\$855,000.00	\$45,000.00	\$0.00	Complete
2018	Littleton School District	90%	387	\$629,000.00	\$597,550.00	\$31,450.00	\$0.00	Complete
2018	Maricopa Unified	80%	6636	\$1,850,000.00	\$1,665,000.00	\$185,000.00	\$0.00	Complete
2018	Mohawk Valley Elementary	90%	1141	\$365,771.56	\$347,482.98	\$18,288.58	\$0.00	Complete
2018	Nogales USD	90%	8500	\$947,000.00	\$899,650.00	\$47,350.00	\$0.00	Complete
2018	Pinal County Consortium	85%	0	\$33,779,395.00	\$31,245,940.37	\$2,533,454.63	\$0.00	Complete
2018	Pinal County Schools	80%	0	\$75,012.00	\$67,510.80	\$7,501.20	\$0.00	Complete
2018	PPEP, Inc	90%	800	\$7,500.00	\$7,125.00	\$375.00	\$0.00	Complete
2018	Prescott USD	60%	4003	\$101,180.10	\$69,282.06	\$10,118.01	\$21,780.03	Complete
2018	Saddle Mountain School District	80%	1764	\$1,149,000.00	\$1,034,100.00	\$114,900.00	\$0.00	Complete
2018	Show Low School District	80%	2324	\$199,548.40	\$179,593.56	\$19,954.84	\$0.00	Complete
2018	Snowflake School District	70%	2542	\$217,800.00	\$174,240.00	\$21,780.00	\$21,780.00	Complete
2018	Tombstone Library	80%	0	\$25,000.00	\$22,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$0.00	Complete
2018	Tombstone USD	80%	742	\$4,000.00	\$3,600.00	\$400.00	\$0.00	Complete
2018	Vail District	60%	12860	\$4,545,792.00	\$3,182,054.40	\$454,579.20	\$909,158.40	Complete
2018	Yavapai ASD #99	80%		\$30,828.34	\$27,741.50	\$3,082.84	\$0.00	Complete
2019	Desert Star Academy	90%	500	\$28,447.00	\$27,024.65	\$1,422.35	\$0.00	Complete

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2019	Gila County Consortium	83%	6800	\$19,490,128.46	\$17,541,115.61	\$1,949,012.85	\$0.00	Complete
2019	Heber-Overgaard USD 6	80%	520	\$1,000,342.46	\$900,308.20	\$100,034.26	\$0.00	Complete
2019	JO Combs	70%		\$27,801.00	\$22,240.80	\$2,780.10	\$2,780.10	Complete
2019	Little Singer School	90%	150	\$777,660.01	\$738,777.01	\$38,883.00	\$0.00	Complete
2019	Navajo County Consortium	80%	0	\$537,405.00	\$537,405.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	Complete
2019	Orme School	80%	140	\$727,448.11	\$654,703.30	\$72,744.81	\$0.00	Complete
2019	Shonto Prep	90%		\$71,438.62	\$67,866.69	\$3,571.93	\$0.00	Complete
2019	Yucca School	90%	50	\$351,049.00	\$333,496.55	\$17,552.45	\$0.00	Complete
2020	Buckeye Elementary	80%	5614	\$360,000.00	\$324,000.00	\$36,000.00	\$0.00	Complete
2020	Douglas Unified School District	90%	4225	\$266,500.00	\$253,175.00	\$13,325.00	\$0.00	Complete
2020	Gila Bend USD	90%	478	\$8,543.50	\$8,116.33	\$427.18	\$0.00	Complete
2020	Hunters Point	90%	145	\$10,703.89	\$10,168.70	\$535.19	\$0.00	Complete
2020	Liberty School District	70%	3899	\$216,000.00	\$172,800.00	\$21,600.00	\$21,600.00	Complete
2020	Navajo Nation	90%	0	\$4,788,550.59	\$4,549,123.06	\$239,427.53	\$0.00	Funded - In process
2020	Paloma Elementary	90%	123	\$1,651,035.00	\$1,568,483.25	\$82,551.75	\$0.00	Complete
2020	Saddle Mountain School District	80%	2179	\$160,000.00	\$128,000.00	\$16,000.00	\$0.00	Complete
2021	Beaver Creek	80%	275	\$1,500,000.00	\$1,350,000.00	\$150,000.00	\$0.00	Complete
2021	Buckeye ESD	80%	5455	\$125,860.00	\$113,274.00	\$12,586.00	\$0.00	Complete
2021	Liberty School District	70%	4531	\$38,045.00	\$30,434.00	\$3,804.50	\$3,804.50	Complete
2021	Maricopa Unified	80%	7992	\$203,499.00	\$183,149.10	\$20,349.90	\$0.00	Awaiting funding approval
2021	Navajo Nation (5 sites)	90%	0	\$861,116.16	\$818,060.35	\$43,055.81	\$0.00	Funded - In process
2021	Navajo Nation (9 sites)	90%	0	\$11,348,412.14	\$10,780,991.53	\$567,420.61	\$0.00	Funded – In process
2021	Patagonia School District	90%	160	\$720,050.00	\$684,047.50	\$36,002.50	\$0.00	Complete
2021	Pinon Community School	90%	42	\$61,374.00	\$58,305.30	\$3,068.70	\$0.00	Cancelled
2021	Sentinel School District	90%	42	\$155,250.00	\$147,487.50	\$7,762.50	\$0.00	Complete
2021	Snowflake USD	70%	0	\$116,600.00	\$93,280.00	\$11,660.00	\$11,660.00	Funded – In process
2021	Somerton District	90%	0	\$468,279.67	\$444,865.69	\$23,413.98	\$0.00	Complete
2021	Sonoita / Elgin	60%	122	\$782,015.00	\$547,373.20	\$156,403.00	\$0.00	Complete
2021	Theodore Roosevelt School	90%	140	\$3,091,499.60	\$2,936,924.62	\$154,574.98	\$0.00	Complete
2021	Yuma ESD	80%	9012	\$27,524.13	\$24,771.72	\$2,752.41	\$0.00	Complete
2021	Yuma UHSD - San Luis	80%	11348	\$1,188,567.00	\$1,069,710.30	\$118,856.70	\$0.00	Complete
2021	Yuma UHSD - Somerton	80%	0	\$525,000.00	\$472,500.00	\$52,500.00	\$0.00	Complete
2022	Florence Unified	80%	9493	\$944,650.00	\$850,185.00	\$94,465.00	\$0.00	Complete
2022	Littleton ESD	84%	6321	\$249,642.00	\$237,159.90	\$12,482.10	\$0.00	Complete
2022	Murphy ESD	90%	1400	\$625,227.00	\$593,966.00	\$31,261.00	\$0.00	Funded – In process
2022	Pinal County Consortium	90%	355	\$4,402,157.00	\$4,005,962.87	\$396,194.13	\$0.00	Complete
2022	Santa Cruz HS #35	90%	3441	\$1,080,000.00	\$1,026,000.00	\$54,000.00	\$0.00	Complete
2022	Solomon District	80%	200	\$16,000.00	\$14,400.00	\$1,600.00	\$0.00	Complete
2022	Safford USD	80%	2940	\$8,880.74	\$7,992.67	\$888.07	\$0.00	Complete
2023	Pinal County Consortium (Canyon State, Imagine Superstition, Imagine Coolidge)	90%	1,894	\$1,242,994.00	\$1,131,124.54	\$111,869.46	\$0.00	In Process

Project calls are hosted every 2 weeks on Tuesdays for all active projects. Call is open to the public via Zoom.

Bandwidth Across the State

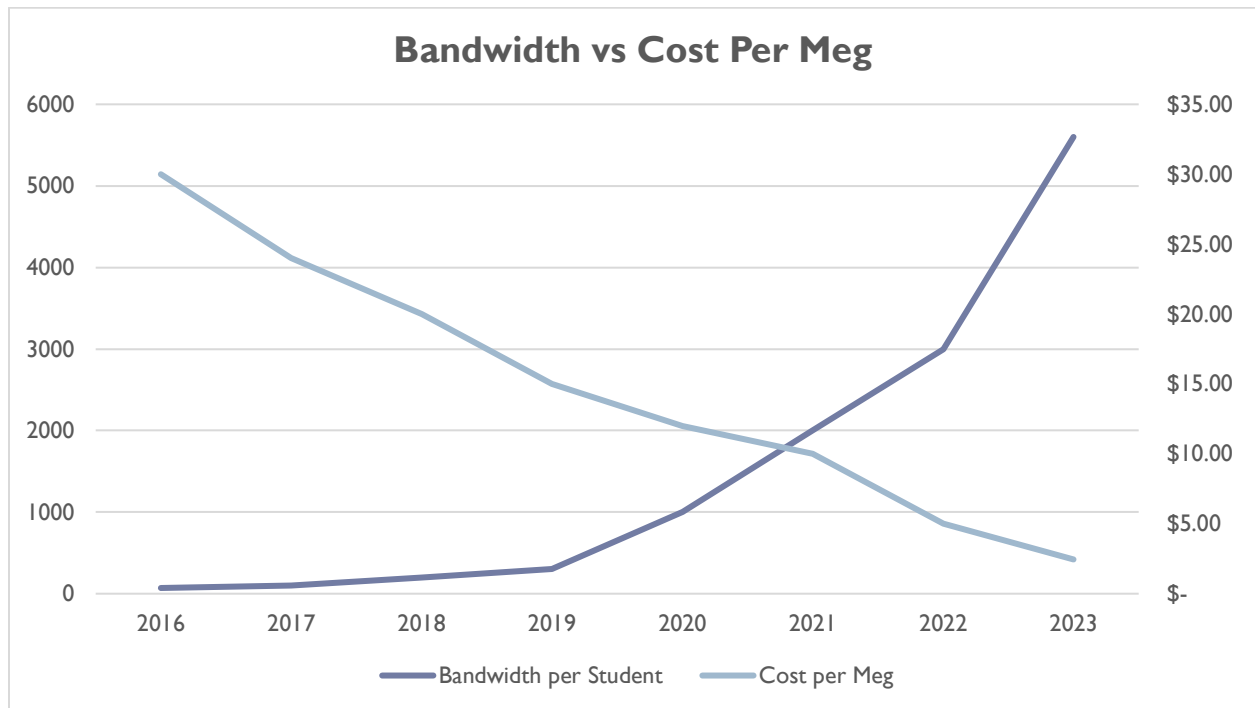
Currently, 78% of our districts have access to unlimited bandwidth. Today, Arizona exceeds the National Average at 87% of our schools meeting the one megabit per second goal (national average is 76%). We do not track Charter Schools and Libraries where many utilize DSL services. Tribal areas have proven to be the most challenging in delivering internet and wide area network services. BIE schools have bandwidth provided by BIE but can participate in our broadband program if they choose.

Partnering with the County School Superintendents in building county wide networks have been the most successful in reducing costs and providing the best services.

Delivering reliable bandwidth to schools and libraries is extremely important in educating our students. As applications and curriculum develop, they become more bandwidth intensive. Having a cost effective, reliable high-speed fiber connection becomes mandatory to keep up with the demand. Today 87% of Arizona students receive at least 1.5M per student and 12% receive 4.4M per student.

Cost Per Meg

The Arizona Broadband for Education Initiative has been a key factor in bringing the cost of bandwidth down across the state. Funding new broadband builds brings low-cost, high-performing services to our most rural areas. In 2016, before we started the broadband projects, \$10 per meg was considered a good price. Today, we expect less than \$5 per meg (Prices include Access and transport).



Bandwidth “Recommendations”

We cannot force an entity to purchase bandwidth but we can provide the bandwidth and give them the opportunity to purchase via the Erate program. Discounts range from 40% to 90% based on their NSLP (National School Lunch Program) discount level.

Internet Service Provider		
School Year	2017-18	2020-21
Small School District (fewer than 1,000 students)	At least 1.5 Mbps per user (Minimum 100 Mbps for district)	At least 4.3 Mbps per user (Minimum 300 Mbps for district)
Medium School District Size (3,000 students)	At least 1.0 Gbps per 1,000 users [^]	At least 3.0 Gbps per 1,000 users
Large School District (more than 10,000 students)	At least 0.7 Gbps per 1,000 users	At least 2.0 Gbps per 1,000 users

(These are the last published guidelines)

This program has been hugely successful and is a proven model for other states in providing high-speed internet access to schools in rural areas. We have moved to the next level by

Made possible by;

Funding for this initiative:

- Arizona Governor's Office
- Arizona Corporation Commission
- Arizona Legislature
- Arizona Department of Education

Fully Supported by:

- Arizona Department of Administration
- Arizona Corporation Commission - Commissioner Lea Marquez Peterson
- Arizona State School Superintendent – Tom Horne
- Education SuperHighway
- Apache County School Superintendent – Joy Whiting
- Yavapai County School Superintendent – Tim Carter
- Cochise County School Superintendent – Jacqui Clay
- Gila County School Superintendent – Roy Sandoval
- Navajo County School Superintendent – Jalyn Gerlich
- La Paz County School Superintendent – Dru Wagoner
- Coconino County School Superintendent – Cheryl Mango-Paget
- Santa Cruz County School Superintendent – Alfredo Velasquez
- Mohave County School Superintendent – Mike File

For questions regarding the “Arizona Broadband for Education Initiative”, contact:

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