

ARIZONA BROADBAND FOR EDUCATION INITIATIVE

2017 Project Update

“High-speed Internet is the necessary foundation for taking advantage of technology in the classroom. I support expanding broadband connectivity in every classroom in our state to ensure our students have the tools and skills they need to succeed in school and beyond”.

Arizona Governor Doug Ducey

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), a non-profit designated by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).

The E-rate Modernization Order, adopted in July 2014, allows states to establish “matching funds” that may contribute up to ten percent in funding to subsidize the cost of Category 1 “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 after the AUSF funds are depleted or expire.

During the E-rate funding year 2017-2018 (July 2016-June 2017), the Department of Education approved requests for \$1,108,119.85 which provided \$14,419,681.19 in total construction projects for 84 sites in Arizona.

2017 Year End Status:

The Arizona Broadband for Education Initiative has supported schools and libraries with their E-rate and state matching fund application, resulting in 30,000 more students connected to high speed Internet. Please see the following page for a complete list of project sites.

Our next E-rate funding cycle began July 1, 2017 (2018-2019 funding year). We are working with over 100 schools and libraries to take advantage of this once in a generation opportunity.

- **Complete**

	School / Library	Total Cost	State Match
•	Arizona Call A Teen	\$61,000	\$3,095

- **In process**

	School / Library	Total Cost	State Match
•	Agua Fria District	\$750,000	\$74,900
•	Apache County Consortium	\$8,300,000	\$628,448
•	Bicentennial High School	\$40,000	\$2,000
•	Payson Unified District	\$159,000	\$15,900
•	Santa Cruz Valley HSD	\$875,000	\$43,716
•	JO Combs District	\$360,000	\$36,000
•	Maine Consolidated	\$24,000	\$2,450
•	Mohave Accelerated Learning	\$13,000	\$1,312
•	Page Unified	\$750	\$75
•	Stanfield District	\$950,000	\$47,500
•	Tombstone District	\$500	\$25
•	Vail District	\$2,000	\$200

- **Remainder of the sites are in the Program Integrity Assurance (PIA) process and awaiting funding:**

	School / Library	Total Cost	State Match
•	Yavapai Consortium (58 sites)	\$1,808,000	\$180,832
•	Canon School	\$1,776	\$88
•	Eloy ESD	\$93,360	\$4,668
•	Hayden Winkelman	\$241,015	\$24,101
•	Pinal County Library District	\$41,000	\$2,050
•	Snowflake District	\$195,938	\$19,563
•	Somerton District	\$236,000	\$11,800
•	Stanfield District	\$950,000	\$47,500
•	Superior District	\$187,835	\$9,391

The AUSF funds set aside by the Corporation Commission will be used before the funding set aside by the Governor's budget office. We project the Governor's budgeted amount to begin allocation for the 2019 funding year.