



K-20 Telecommunications Support

1. **Purpose:**

K-20 Network Support Services deliver frontline technical support for K-12 schools on the K-20 Educational Network. Support Services staff are skilled technicians who maintain and troubleshoot the network. Their primary responsibilities are preventative: avert system failure at the school/district level and eliminate network interruptions that impact data processing and the online applications that support professional development, teaching, learning and administration.

2. **Description of services provided:**

State funding supports staffing for the K-20 Support Services—management and oversight at OSPI and the Regional Institutional Technical Units (RITUs) at all nine educational service districts. Staff in each RITU provide technical support and, when necessary, escalate district data problems to the K-20 Networking Cooperative (KOCO) or to Data Advanced Technical Support (ATS). ATS staff deal with problems related to Domain Name Service area. OSPI staff coordinate the allocation of over 10,178 Zoom videoconferencing licenses to K-12 educators as part of K-20 Network Services.

3. **Criteria for receiving services and/or grants:**

All schools on the K-20 Network (262 districts, 5 tribal schools, 1 charter school, the state schools for the blind and deaf, as well as 9 Educational Service Districts) receive these services at no cost.

Beneficiaries in 2021-22 School Year:

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Number of School Districts: | 270 (Rural districts: 185/71% of total districts) |
| Number of Schools: | 1,883 |
| Number of Students: | 953,061 |
| Number of Educators: | 61,619 |
| Other: | Small Districts - 133 (51% with 1,000 students or less) |

Number of OSPI staff associated with this funding (FTEs): 1.86

Number of contractors/other staff associated with this funding: 1

| | | |
|----------------------|------------------------|------------------|
| FY22 Funding: | State Appropriation: | \$281,000 |
| | Federal Appropriation: | \$0 |
| | Other Fund Sources: | \$0 |
| | TOTAL (FY22) | \$281,000 |

4. **Are federal or other funds contingent on state funding?**

No

5. **State funding history:**

| Fiscal Year | Amount Funded | Actual Expenditures |
|--------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|
| 2022 | \$281,000 | \$266,829 |
| 2021 | \$1,221,000 | \$268,965 |
| 2020 | \$1,221,000 | \$1,204,610 |
| 2019 | \$1,221,000 | \$1,194,767 |
| 2018 | \$1,221,000 | \$1,202,801 |

6. **Number of beneficiaries (e.g., school districts, schools, students, educators, other) history:**

| Fiscal Year | K-12 Connected Entities (Districts, ESDs, OSPI, WSIPC) |
|--------------------|---|
| 2022 | 284 |
| 2021 | 282 |
| 2020 | 283 |
| 2019 | 279 |

7. **Programmatic changes since inception (if any):**

N/A

8. **Evaluations of program/major findings:**

K-12 schools usage of the K-20 Network continues to grow at a rate of approximately 55 to 60% annually, and schools are increasingly relying on the network for online instructional resources for students as well as online assessments. Technology is ubiquitous throughout a student's learning experience.

9. Major challenges faced by the program:

From the 4th quarter, 2020 to the 4th quarter, 2022, the network experienced an overall usage increase of 153%. This increase is in line with ongoing and predicted growth due to increased district 1:1 device programs, instructional integration of educational technology and student/overall usage.

10. Future opportunities:

During the past year, districts have transitioned from pandemic responses to establishing a new normal in classrooms and schools. Technology integration and connectivity reliance are now, more than ever, key to all functions of a school district and especially with teaching and learning.

Districts across the state continue to benefit through the collective nature of this program. The K-20 network provides a fundamental and cost-saving service to districts across the state, especially to our rural and small districts. In fact, K-12 school districts account for approximately 72% of all connected sectors on the K-20 Network.

One of these benefits is the business-class [Distributed Denial-of-Service](#) (DDoS) protection to districts. This is critical at a time of increasing cyberattacks on K-12 educational systems across the nation that districts on the K-20 network have this layer of protection to help mitigate network disruption. Another benefit is the negotiated cost savings on Zoom licensing. This video conferencing tool has become instrumental to supporting the ongoing shifts in instruction, student learning and support of daily district functions.

To support districts growth technology integration and usage, the K-20 program office continues to seek minimum bandwidth procurements of 1,000Mbps as well as upgrades as needed.

11. Statutory and/or budget language:

ESSB 5693, Sec. 501(2)(b) \$281,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2022 and \$281,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2023 are provided solely for K-20 telecommunications network technical support in the K-12 sector to prevent system failures and avoid interruptions in school utilization of the data processing and video-conferencing capabilities of the network. These funds may be used to purchase engineering and advanced technical support for the network.

12. Other relevant information:

N/A

13. Schools/districts receiving assistance:

See [OSPI's grantee list](#).

14. Program Contact Information:

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