

Steps to Prepare for Digital Learning Access Grant Program (available fall, 2018)

<http://www.k12.wa.us/EdTech/digitalaccessgrants.aspx>

Category 1 – Broadband Connectivity - Steps to take right now:

1. Do you have one or more buildings in your district that have less than a 100 Mbps connection to your Wide Area Network?
2. Do you have one or more buildings in your district that have an unreliable/unscalable connection to your Wide Area Network?

If the answer to either of these is Yes, you should strongly consider applying when the grant application becomes available!

For basic background knowledge about broadband, check out

<https://upgrade.educationsuperhighway.org/research-your-options/types-of-fiber-services-2/>

Questions about grant program: Dennis Small, dennis.small@k12.wa.us or call 360-725-6384.

Questions about Fiber Construction or Scalable Connectivity: Christine Yoo, christine.yoo@educationsuperhighway.org, or call 415-738-8326.

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Category 2 – Internal Network Infrastructure - Steps to take right now:

Check to see how much E-rate Category 2 budget your building(s) have remaining, using the Lookup Tool at <https://sltools.universalservice.org/portal-external/budgetLookup/>

With the obvious caveat that there is no substitute for an on-site walk-through by a qualified network engineer, here are some quick tips for you to self-assess your Wi-Fi infrastructure.

Quick assessment of your district's wireless infrastructure:

- Do you have instructional spaces in one or more buildings that are not completely covered by your current wireless network?
- Is your wireless infrastructure more than 3-5 years old?

If the answer to either of these is Yes, you should strongly consider applying when the grant application becomes available!

Other technical things to consider:

- Are you able to support a guest/open network as well as a secured network for authorized users?
- Do your Access Points (APs) support at least 802.11n or higher (e.g., 802.11ac Wave 1 or 2)?

- Do your APs provide both 2.4 and 5 GHz bands (dual bands)?
- Do you have managed Gigabit switches, and do they support Power over Ethernet (PoE) for your APs?
- Is all of your data cabling for your wireless access points of Category 5e or higher specification?
- Does your firewall support throughput higher than 100 Mbps?
- Are you able to centrally manage your wireless network?
- Does your Wi-Fi management solution include features like:
 - Dynamic/Automatic Adjustment of Transmission Power
 - Single Management Interface with Role Based Access Control (RBAC)
 - Monitor and Report AP, Client, Application
 - Dynamic Channel Adjustment
 - Security and Bandwidth Policy Management
 - Zero/Low Touch Configuration

If the answer to one or more of these is No, again you should strongly consider applying when the grant application becomes available!

For basic background knowledge about Wi-Fi, check out <http://buyersguide.educationsuperhighway.org/>

Note that only items eligible for E-rate discounts will be matched by state funds. For a list of E-rate Category 2 Eligible Services, check out <https://www.usac.org/sl/applicants/beforeyoubegin/eligible-services-list.aspx>

If possible, work with EducationSuperhighway, your local Educational Service District (ESD), or one or more local vendors to do a visual assessment of current infrastructure, including: internal wiring, switches and routers, Wi-Fi Controller and Access Points; and estimate the range of expenditures needed to support your current and future educational needs.

Questions about grant program: Dennis Small, dennis.small@k12.wa.us or call 360-725-6384.

Questions about E-rate: Susan Tenkhoff, erate@k12.wa.us or call 971-279-5808.

Questions about Wi-Fi Infrastructure: Christine Yoo, christine.yoo@educationsuperhighway.org, or call 415-738-8326.