

E-Rate EED/Libraries, Archives & Museums

- LAM contracts with an expert consultant to assist schools and libraries with applications for E-Rate subsidies. Some need only technical assistance and others ask that she file the complete application on their behalf.
 - o E-Rate is a federal program that subsidizes internet services for public schools and libraries, 60-90%, based on local poverty statistics as evidenced by the free/reduced student lunch program.
 - o Estimated total Alaska benefits for FY 16
 - \$ 14,841,015 Alaska schools/libraries paid for broadband costs
 - \$ 87,600,375 FCC Universal Service/E-rate paid for broadband costs
 - \$102,411,290 Total Alaska schools/libraries broadband costs
- Online With Libraries (OWL) provides state share for 43 rural public libraries' broadband costs.
- School Broadband Assistance Grant program (SchoolBAG) provides funds toward local/state share for 141 rural schools' broadband costs. These are the schools that had less than 10 mbps speed in 2014.
 - o See attached spreadsheet for details of locations, annual costs, speeds.
 - o Funding: Per statute, payouts for state/local are pro-rated by funds available, so no eligible districts will be left out of the program
FY 15: \$5,000,000 – 100% share funded, including first year ramp-up costs
FY 16: \$3,390,000 – 98% share was funded
FY 17 Governor's: \$2,717,300 – estimated 75% share would be funded
- Additional Information on state broadband picture (not EED)
 - o *Alaska School Broadband Audit Report* (May 2015) by Connect AK is the most recent and comprehensive information on speeds, costs and technologies used in school districts in Alaska: <http://www.connectak.org/school-broadband-audit>
 - o *A blueprint for Alaska's broadband future: a report from the statewide broadband task force* (October 2014):
<http://www.alaska.edu/oit/bbtaskforce/docs/Statewide-Broadband-Task-Force-Report-FINAL.pdf>