2014 Internet Access in Alaska Schools

Summary prepared by the Association of Alaska School Boards, Consortium for Digital Learning

	Region	Total Cost User / Month	Student & Teacher Internet Access Speed = Kbps	Schools	Teachers	Students	Native Students	% Native Students
Northern	Northwest Arctic	$75	26	13	162	2,126	1,774	83%
	Bering Strait	$170	55	15	217	1,848	1,644	90%
	Yukon Koyukuk	$87	59	10	57	1,495	438	29%
	North Slope	$73	69	11	165	2,017	1,342	66%
	Yukon Flats	$195	109	7	30	247	243	98%
	Tanana City	$375	149	1	5	39	39	100%
Southwestern	Unalaska City	$17	13	2	37	399	61	15%
	Pribilof	$119	19	2	10	92	81	88%
	Southwest Region	$111	32	7	61	602	565	93%
	Aleutian Region	$243	48	2	8	37	0	0%
	Dillingham City	$50	49	3	52	469	297	63%
	Bristol Bay	$237	82	3	18	134	80	60%
	Lake & Peninsula	$125	90	14	52	336	232	69%
	Aleutians East	$310	152	5	31	246	5	2%
Western	Lower Yukon	$155	22	10	148	2,054	1,945	95%
	Kashunamiut	$73	24	1	28	325	315	97%
	Saint Mary's	$117	26	1	14	213	195	91%
	Yupiit	$208	55	3	44	457	422	92%
	Nome Public Schools	$35	58	5	64	700	503	72%
	Kuspuk	$234	114	9	34	387	310	80%
	Lower Kuskokwim	$109	186	28	352	4,285	3,869	90%
Central	Galena	$146	36	4	74	4,384	450	10%
	Chugach	$96	37	4	15	310	39	12%
	Cordova	$20	49	3	27	349	45	13%
	Anchorage	$5	69	97	3,205	48,154	3,766	8%
	Nenana City	$28	89	2	28	1,040	188	18%
	Valdez City	$17	99	4	57	608	74	12%
	Alaska Gateway	$94	113	8	42	404	246	60%
	Iditarod Area	$578	126	8	46	333	275	82%
	Delta/Greely	$22	134	6	57	815	27	3%
	Copper River	$9	135	5	48	442	163	37%
	Denali Borough	$174	249	4	36	888	15	2%
	Fairbanks	$1	437	35	821	13,891	1,664	12%
	Kenai Peninsula	$6	468	43	786	9,150	818	9%
	Mat-Su	$14	498	45	959	18,037	2,349	13%
	Kodiak Island	$79	907	14	179	2,477	488	20%
Southeast	Hoonah	$173	30	2	14	117	70	60%
	Pelican City	$1,162	83	1	2	13	0	0%
	Skagway	$23	85	1	12	100	2	2%
	Klawock	$9	94	1	17	123	92	75%
	Yakutat City	$140	109	2	12	110	66	60%
	Haines	$11	128	3	30	280	35	13%
	Kake City	$96	127	1	17	111	86	77%
	Petersburg City	$132	141	3	52	440	69	16%
	Craig	$36	146	4	51	576	114	20%
	Chatham	$120	150	5	17	172	87	50%
	Wrangell City	$61	242	3	35	278	64	23%
	Hydaburg	$102	274	2	8	80	53	80%
	Juneau Borough	$4	307	14	340	4,813	917	19%
	Southeast Island	$195	321	10	47	201	11	5%
	Annette Island	$79	323	4	39	381	282	74%
	Sitka Borough	$26	498	6	111	1,402	345	25%
	Ketchikan Gateway	$21	733	10	157	2,474	656	26%

Broadband data: Connected Nation, Alaska School Broadband Audit Report, May 2015

School district data: Alaska DEED, 2014-15 School Year

CONNECT ALASKA

School Broadband Audit Report, May 2015
Recommendations for Action

1. Alaska schools should work to maximize use of E-rate funds available for broadband connectivity both to and within schools.

2. The state and Alaska school districts should actively seek to establish a "special construction" state funding program that would qualify Alaska schools for an additional E-rate discount of up to 10%. Failure of the state to implement a program would leave important E-rate funds on the table.

3. The state and Alaska schools should investigate, explore, and advance alternative procurement processes, such as joint or regional bidding, or increased technical assistance to school IT purchasing managers. Changes might help resolve some of the significant cost variability found for similarly situated schools and districts. Better purchasing processes may also increase incentive for high-discount schools to have more cost-effective procurements.

4. The state and schools should continue to collect data on connectivity, track Alaska school and library responses to the FCC e-rate rule changes, and update this report on an annual basis. Alaska school districts should review their investments in technology, including WANs on a yearly basis.

5. Further research should be conducted on the actual use of digital curricula, electronic text books, and connected devices in Alaska schools. The Audit did not explore, for instance, the number of hours of “digital instruction," the nature and quality of digitally-enabled instruction, impact on test scores, and the quality of online test experience.

6. Study the effect of off-campus connectivity for education and explore off-campus connectivity solutions.