

What is E-Rate?

The E-rate Program is a program that provides federal funds to help eligible schools and libraries get affordable internet access and telecommunications services.

Every Alaska school qualifies for E-Rate with support from 60-90% of their internet bill.

Support level is based on the number of students receiving free and reduced lunch.

Schools must follow strict FCC rules including a rigorous competitive bid process for services.



What is BAG?

The Broadband Assistance Grant (BAG) program was first launched in 2014 to help schools leverage federal funds so that Alaska schools and libraries could purchase internet service to meet their growing needs.

The BAG program is administered by Alaska Department of Education and Early Development Division of Libraries, Archives & Museums.

In 2014, BAG 10 legislation was passed providing state matching funds to increase Alaska school internet speeds to 10 Mbps.

In 2020, BAG 25 legislation was passed providing state matching funds to increase Alaska school internet speeds to 25 Mbps.

The BAG program has directly supported increased funding for 152 schools across Alaska.



\$6.2 M

awarded in 2020-21



28

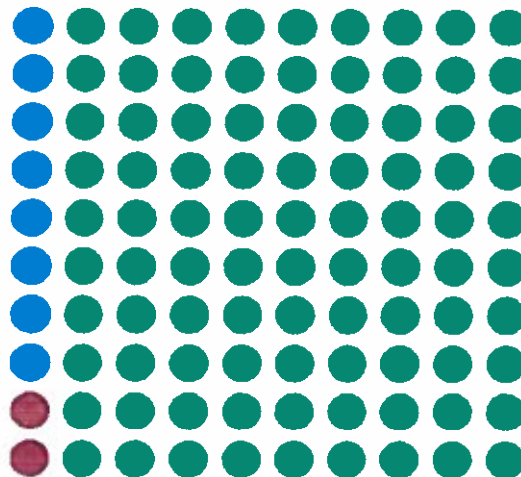
districts received awards



152

schools reached 25 Mbps

Leveraging up to 90% federal match



This example assumes the following:

School has a budget of \$1,000 and qualifies for 90% of E-Rate.

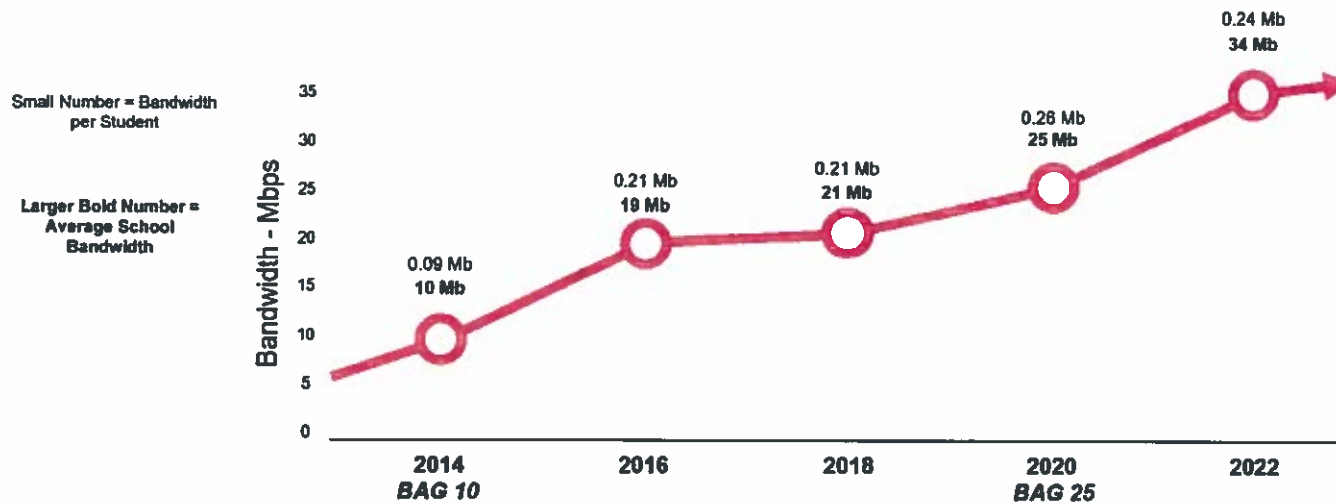
School Budget	\$1,000
BAG	\$4,000
E-Rate (90%)	\$45,000
Purchasing Power	\$50,000

Each circle represents 1 MB of internet, and who pays.

- School
- Alaska BAG
- Federal E-Rate

BAG Results: increased connectivity for rural schools

Rural school speeds have *tripled* since launch of the BAG program in 2010



Source: opendata.usac.org/471 Line Item Dataset

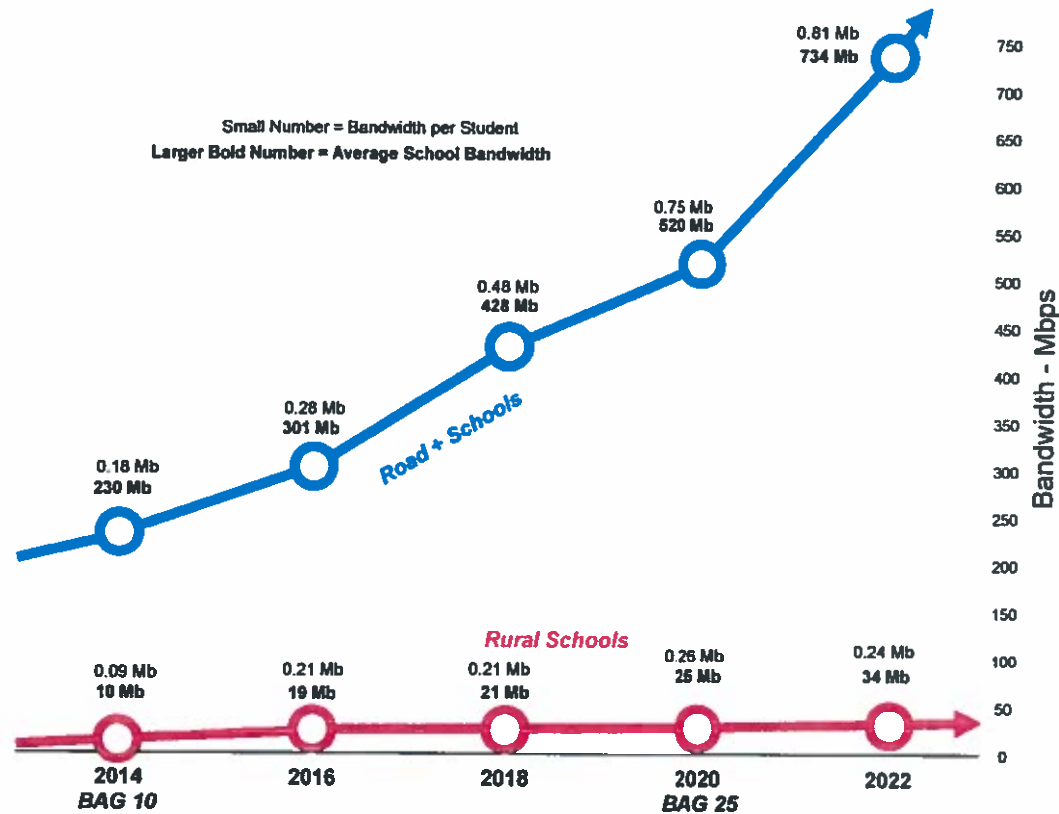
Digital Divide

Most rural schools have been historically served by more expensive microwave and satellite service.

Small rural schools have smaller student counts and smaller budgets.

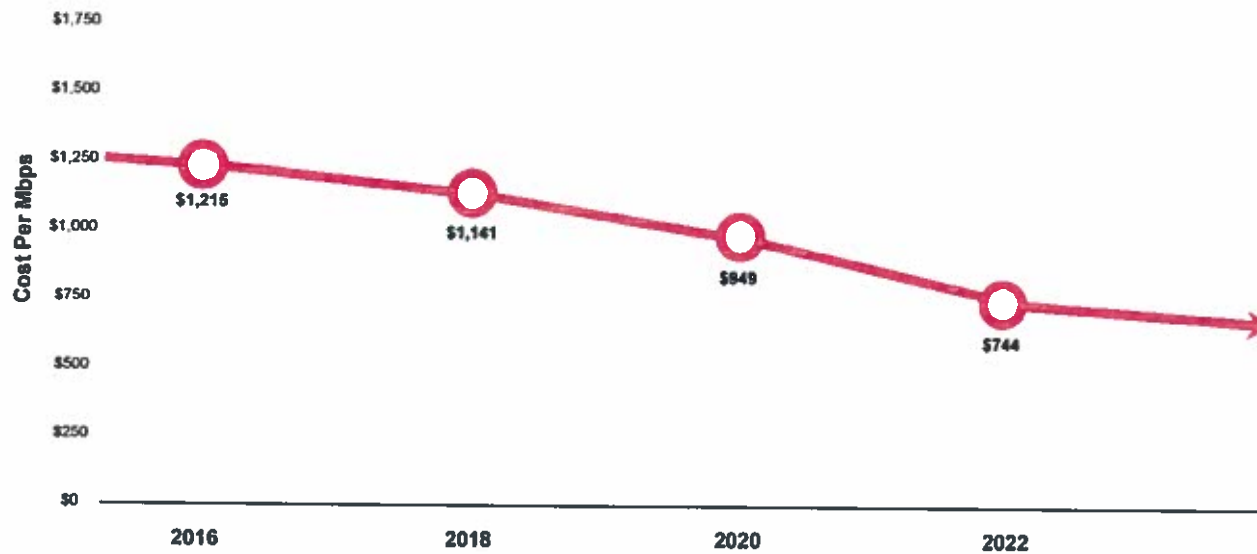
Rural school bandwidth growth continues to be constrained compared to urban schools.

Source: openroadsusa.org
Rural Broadband Initiative



More bang for the buck: the decreasing cost of connectivity

BAG 25



Source: opendata.usac.org 471 Line Item Dataset

Average price per Mbps for all Alaska schools