K-20 Telecommunications Support

Statutory and/or Budget Language

$281,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2024 and $281,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2025 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.

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.

Description of Services Provided

State funding supports staffing for the K–20 Support Services, which includes management, support, and oversight at OSPI. This support involves representing K–12 and advocating for the unique needs of districts at the K–20 Consortium group, as well as convening cybersecurity meetings that include the Technical Working Group, Network Advisory Committee, and Regional Institutional Technical Units. Advanced Technical Support staff address issues related to the Domain Name Service area, while OSPI staff coordinate the allocation of Zoom videoconferencing licenses to K–12 educators as part of K–20 Network Services.

Criteria for Receiving Services and/or Grants

All connected entities on the K–20 Network (262 public school districts, 5 tribal schools, 2 charter schools, 2 independent schools—the state schools for the blind and deaf, as well as 9 Educational Service Districts, Washington School Information Processing Cooperative, and OSPI) receive these services at no cost.

Beneficiaries in the 2023-24 School Year

Number of School Districts	271
Number of Schools	2,119
Number of Students	940,845
Number of Educators	60,806

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Are Federal or Other Funds Contingent on State Funding?

No

State Funding History

Fiscal Year	Amount Funded	Actual Expenditures
2024	$281,000	$163,069*
2023	$281,000	$220,711
2022	$281,000	$266,829
2021	$1,221,000	$268,965
2020	$1,221,000	$1,204,610

* Program Specialist position not hired until April 2024.

Number of Beneficiaries Per Fiscal Year (e.g. School Districts, Schools, Students, Educators, Other)

Fiscal Year	Number of Beneficiaries
2024	282 K–12 Connected Entities
2023	282 K–12 Connected Entities
2022	284 K–12 Connected Entities
2021	282 K–12 Connected Entities
2020	283 K–12 Connected Entities

Programmatic Changes Since Inception (If Any)

N/A

Program Evaluation or Evaluation of Major Findings

K–12 school usage of the K–20 Network continues to grow annually, and schools continue to rely on the network for online instructional resources for students as well as online assessments. Technology is ubiquitous throughout a student's learning experience.

Major Challenges Faced by the Program

The program was challenged in the hiring of the Program Specialist position. In its advocacy role, OSPI collaborated with the Washington State Library to negotiate reduced K–20 Education Network copay rates. The copay reduction supports OSPI's efforts to increase access to connectivity across the state.

Future Opportunities

The Program Specialist has increased efficiencies, streamlined processes, and improved agency and district communications. Through the efforts of the Program Specialist, the EdTech

Department now has an effective contact management tool that ensures responsive district support and communications. Looking forward to continuing to support equity of access, OSPI is working in partnership with the University of Washington to launch eduroam, a secure, worldwide Wi-Fi access service that allows students and staff to connect to the internet across campuses and when visiting other participating institutions using their home institution credentials.

Schools/Districts Receiving Assistance

Click here to see a list of all OSPI grant recipients in the 2024 Fiscal Year.

Program Contact Information

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