



South Carolina K-12 School Technology Initiative Committee Meeting Minutes

December 17, 2025

Attendees:

Nathan Hogue, ADMIN
Robert Nichols, ADMIN
Victoria Gooch, ADMIN
Gabe Creech, ADMIN
Karen Rumfelt, ADMIN
Mackenzie Jackson, ADMIN
Clark Kirkland, ADMIN

Dan Ralyea, SDE
Rebecca Gunnlaugsson, SDE
Patricia Sinclair, State Library
Adrienne Fairwell, SCETV
Stephanie Cook, SCETV
Dana Yow, EOC
Matthew Lavery, EOC

Noting a quorum of Committee members, Nathan Hogue called the meeting to order at 10:00am and turned the floor over to Victoria Gooch and allowed her to begin with her updates.

E-Rate Update

Victoria Gooch provided an update on various E-Rate related issues to the Committee.

- 1: Victoria gave an overview of current contractual updates. The WAN contract is currently in proposal review period, and there are discussions being held for the Dark Fiber Solicitation.
- 2: The 2026-2027 Application period is quickly approaching, with the deadline being mid to late March. Victoria and Petra are gearing up to gather bandwidth needs from districts, libraries, charter and special schools.
- 3: Victoria recently presenting at the EdTech Conference and led a breakout session. There was great feedback from these sessions and the conference as a whole. They are preparing for an even bigger & better 2027 conference.
- 4: Victoria reminded the Committee of the upcoming deadline of January 7 for submitting PowerPoint slides for the January Principals' meeting.

Nathan Hogue recognized the K12 team for all of the accommodations they have made with the numerous changes to the application and funding process.

Robert Nichols, K12 Budget Review

Robert briefly alluded to the changes in seeking reimbursement that were put in place July 1 and asked Victoria to further explain these changes and how they impacted budget requests after budget presentation.

- Base appropriations remain the same
- The Committee was only able to fund existing requests from the previous funding year
- There are no infrastructure upgrades being requested by Admin as these funds were moved to support increased Network Connectivity Costs

Victoria moved to explain the recent changes. As of the beginning of June, applications and approvals were getting mass reductions. USAC changed the invoice processing method so that bandwidth must match on the invoice and application month over month, meaning entities are not able to ask for upgrades in advance. For increase, the team must hold invoices and submit services substitutions so that each month matches. School WAN especially has been a big undertaking in figuring out how to complete the applications and process invoices.

For FY26, Victoria and Petra plan to submit applications separately – one for entities staying status quo and one for those upgrading throughout the year. The upgrade invoices will be held, meanwhile they can file for reimbursement for those entities maintaining their same levels. The big impact is that funds are being held up – using prior year funds in order to maintain connectivity.

Victoria asked if there were any questions regarding the budget. Hearing none, Nathan moved to approve the FY2025 K-12 Budget. Matthew Lavery made the motion to approve, and Dana Yow seconded.

Following the meeting, an email was sent to each voting partner of the committee to ensure complete representation of entities:

Nathan Hogue, Admin	Yay
Rebecca Gunnlaugsson, SDE	Yay
Dana Yow, EOC	Yay
Stephanie Cook, SCETV	Yay
Patricia Sinclair, State Library	Yay

By unanimous vote, the motion carries, and the FY 2025 SC K-12 Budget is approved.

Nathan reminded the group of the January 21 Principals' Meeting, currently scheduled at the State Data Center, 4430 Broad River Road.

Adjournment

Hearing no other new or old business, Nathan Hogue motioned that the meeting be adjourned.

- Adrienne Fairwell motioned to close, and Dana Yow provided a second
- All Committee members approved, and the meeting was adjourned at 10:17am