



South Carolina K-12 School Technology Initiative Committee Meeting Minutes

November 9, 2021

Attendees:

Andrew Epting, ADMIN
Emily Prosser, ADMIN
Keith Osman, ADMIN
Robert Nichols, ADMIN
Sara Pincelli, ADMIN
Steven Lake ADMIN
Petra Turner ADMIN
Patricia Sinclair, State Library

Jane Sosebee AT&T
Lynn Fralick, SEGRA
Brian Pratt, SDE
Mark Leslie, Richland 1
Salandra Bowman, SCETV
Michael Shelton, ADMIN
Greg Gilstrap, Anderson 1
Grady Sharpe, AT&T

Noting a quorum of Committee members, Keith Osman called the meeting to order.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the May 27, 2021 Committee meeting we’re provided to Committee members. Mr. Osman solicited the Committee members for comments, edits, and questions regarding the minutes.

Hearing none, Jane Sosebee motioned to approve the minutes as presented, and Salandra Bowman seconded the motion.

- The May 27, 2021 S.C. K-12 School Technology Initiative Committee Minutes were unanimously approved.

E-Rate Update

Andrew Epting provided an update on various E-Rate related issues to the Committee. A copy of the presentation is attached.

1. FY 2021-2022 Filing Window: As of November 8th, 143 Category 2 applications valued at \$47.8M
 - a. FY2022-2023 Filing Window: Administrative window now open. Form 471 application window set to open mid-January.
 - b. New Category 2 specific hardware providers are now eligible for E-Rate funding via state master contracts.
2. FCC Update: The FCC has directed USAC to create “bidding portal” which will likely violate state procurement laws.

- a. Mr. Osman requested Mr. Epting to submit copies of the FCC's Office of Inspector General bidding portal proposal and GAO Report. Links to the reports are provided below.
 - i. U.S. Government Accountability Office: Report to the Chairman, Committee on the Budget, U.S. Senate (September 2020) "FCC Should Take Action to Better Manage Persistent Fraud Risks in the Schools and Libraries Program." <https://www.gao.gov/assets/gao-20-606.pdf>
 - ii. FCC Office of Inspector General: Semiannual Report to Congress October 1, 2016 – March 31, 2017 (see pages 13-15) https://transition.fcc.gov/oig/FCC_OIG_SAR_03312017.pdf
3. Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF): \$7.1B program that provides students and library patrons with internet access at home using E-Rate framework.
 - a. 45 organizations submitted 47 ECF applications valued at \$58.2M.
 - b. As of November 8th, 33 applications have been funded at \$9.7M.

Initiative Partner Presentation: SCETV

Salandra Bowman provided an update on several SCETV programs, some of which, have been funded by the Committee. A copy of the presentation is attached.

New Business

Mr. Osman announced that Mr. Epting will be moving on from the State at the end of November to be an E-Rate Coordinator/Consultant.

Adjournment

Hearing no other new or old business, Mr. Osman motioned that the meeting be adjourned.

- All Committee members approved, and the meeting was adjourned at 10 a.m.

E-Rate Update

STATE AND FEDERAL PROGRAM NEWS



FY 2021–2022 E-Rate Update

- ▶ As of Nov. 8, there are 143 Category 2 applications valued at \$47.8M
 - ▶ 132 apps valued at \$45.5M has been funded.
 - ▶ Federal Share = \$36M (\$1.86M disbursed)
 - ▶ 7 apps valued at \$448K are still pending.
 - ▶ 12 apps valued at \$1M have been cancelled/denied



FY 2022–2023 E-Rate Update

- ▶ Administrative Window now open
- ▶ FY 2022 – 2023 Form 471 Application Window set to open mid-Jan.
- ▶ New hardware providers such as Check Point, Extreme, Juniper, and Ruckus are now eligible for E-Rate funding via state master contract.



FCC Update

- ▶ The FCC has directed USAC to create an online “bidding portal” for the E-Rate program.
- ▶ This is now back on circulation, which means we may see an NPRM soon.
- ▶ As proposed, bidding portal would violate several state procurement laws.



ECF Update

- ▶ Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF)
 - ▶ \$7.1B program to provide students and library patrons as well we school and library personnel with internet access at home using the E-Rate framework.
 - ▶ 45 orgs submitted 47 ECF apps valued at \$58.2M.
 - ▶ \$51.1M for Equipment; \$7.1M for Services
 - ▶ As of Nov. 8, 33 apps have been funded valued at \$9.7M, with no funds being reimbursed.
 - ▶ Schools estimated that 130K students lacked access to a device, 65K to a broadband connection, and 96K to both.

