



New Jersey Digital Readiness for Learning and Assessment Project- Broadband Component

Fiscal Year 2015-16 Update

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2015-16 NJDRLAP Program Results

The New Jersey Digital Readiness for Learning and Assessment Project-Broadband Component (NJDRLAP-Broadband) is part of a multi-faceted effort by the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) to help K-12 schools improve their educational technology capabilities. Conceived in 2013, the idea was to use an innovative procurement process to aggregate demand for Internet access among hundreds of schools in order to increase capacity and quality while simultaneously cutting costs.

In fiscal year (FY) 2014-15, the NJDOE contracted with Dellicker Strategies to work with the Educational Services Commission of New Jersey (ESCNJ) to improve broadband access in New Jersey K-12 schools. In 2015-16, those two organizations partnered with Foundation for Newark's Future to continue their work and help more schools receive better broadband service. Here are the results from Year Two of the NJDRLAP-Broadband Program, as defined by five program criteria: good school participation, enhanced Internet capacity, improved service quality, better overall value and a more competitive marketplace.

2nd Year Impact

FY 2014-15 results exceeded expectations by reducing the price of Internet access by 76 percent for 145 participating school organizations across New Jersey, increasing their bandwidth 2.5 times while saving them \$89 million. Work in 2015-16 built upon that success with even better results.

Over two years, NJDRLAP-Broadband reduced the price of Internet access by 74 percent for 200 participating school organizations across New Jersey, increasing their Internet bandwidth 2.2 times while saving them \$109 million.

School participation in NJDRLAP increased 38% in FY 2015-16.

- **55 new school organizations** signed up for **\$5.2 million** in new NJDRLAP contracts.
 - The consortium provides services to 300 different school buildings across the state.
 - The number of participating charters and non-public schools more than doubled.

Network capacity grew for schools across new Jersey, especially for charters and non-public schools.

- Newly participating schools increased their **Internet capacity by 57%**, on average.
 - Their Internet bandwidth increased from 394 to 620 megabits per second (Mbps) using the consortium pricing from the NJDRLAP Request for Proposals.

- Newly participating public charter organizations and non-public schools tripled their Internet bandwidth from the previous year.
- The amount of new Internet bandwidth purchased by Year Two schools exceeded 33 gigabits per second (Gbps).
- Overall, the **total amount of available Internet access** among New Jersey K-12 schools **exceeded 300 Gbps** for the first time during FY 2015-16.

The quality of K-12 school technology infrastructure continued to improve.

- The number of participating school organizations that **upgraded to Ethernet fiber** from cable modems or DSL **increased by 28%** in 2015-16.
 - Statewide, the ratio of all schools choosing fiber over copper increased to 80%.

Year Two schools continued to see value from NJDRLAP-Broadband pricing.

- Avg. monthly Internet prices **declined from \$24.80 to \$8.70 per Mbps** for Year Two schools.
 - This 65 % price decrease saved schools an average of \$16.10 per Mbps each month.
 - That adds another \$19 million in cost savings from the program, bringing the total from both procurements to \$109 million.

The competitiveness of the New Jersey K-12 marketplace continued to advance.

- **Five different providers participated** in the 2nd round of the NJDRLAP-Broadband procurement
 - The number of vendors selected to participate in the consortium was expanded to eight: Affiniti, Comcast, DNS, Lightpath, Lighttower, PenTeleData, Sunesys and Xtel.

Including schools that negotiated their own arrangements with consortium providers, NJDRLAP-Broadband helped 348 districts (58%) get better value for their telecom services.

Recommendations

After two successful years connecting more than half of all New Jersey school districts, there is no need for another Request for Proposals this year.

However, the focus in New Jersey must now shift from improving broadband access to helping schools use this new technology to improve academics. Otherwise, the technology gains of the last two years will be the end result, not the means to achieving better teaching and learning throughout the state of New Jersey.