

SUPT'S EMAIL: K-12 Learning Infrastructure Program (KLIP) sent August 24, 2016

The Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) is pleased to continue to partner with Governor McAuliffe, the Virginia Secretary of Technology, and the national non-profit organization EducationSuperHighway to support divisions' network connectivity goals via VDOE's [K-12 Learning Infrastructure Program \(KLIP\)](#). These outreach services are all at no cost to divisions.

Presented below are highlights of last year's Wi-Fi upgrade efforts in Virginia, as well as ways to receive free services for Wi-Fi and Internet upgrades for the upcoming school year.

#### Wi-Fi Aggregated Purchasing Vehicle

Last year through the KLIP program, the VDOE worked with the Virginia Information Technologies Agency (VITA) to establish state master contracts with 13 Wi-Fi equipment and 13 cabling vendors. This enabled all Virginia school divisions to purchase from these contracts. This process saved divisions from the need to issue their own 470s or RFPs for Category 2 equipment, and allowed them to benefit from the purchasing power of the state. Below are some results of the program:

- Seventeen divisions purchased from the state master contracts, spending \$3.2 million on Wi-Fi equipment and services
- Divisions requested between \$21,254 and \$935,924 from the state contracts
- Approximately 3,000 access points and 1,500 switches were purchased from the state contracts, in addition to numerous routers, wireless controllers, and various other equipment and services
- Divisions saved an average of \$100 for each piece of equipment purchased on the contracts, compared to purchasing the same equipment on their own

These 26 contracts will remain in place for two more years, providing divisions that still have Category 2 funds available with the opportunity to take advantage of additional cost savings.

#### Internet Access Upgrade Program

In addition to Wi-Fi upgrades, EducationSuperHighway will continue to offer free Internet upgrade consulting services to all divisions that need to upgrade to a fiber connection or are simply looking to increase their existing bandwidth. EducationSuperHighway provides a team of technical and procurement experts to help each division connect or upgrade to broadband services. For each interested school division, they will:

- Hold a kick-off call to understand your network
- Provide guidance on bandwidth needs based on your digital learning goals

- Research potential upgrade options
- Reach out to providers on your behalf
- Support your RFP and 470 process
- Ensure implementation of your new network

Please click [here](#) to schedule a call with the team, so that they can learn more about your Internet network and help you explore upgrade solutions.

#### E-rate Assistance

The Department of Education has hired a full-time Learning Infrastructure Coordinator to answer questions, relay information, and assist divisions with the E-rate process. Dr. Susan Clair will be hosting webinars, conference sessions, and conducting training and can be reached at [susan.clair@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:susan.clair@doe.virginia.gov).

#### Need help for Wi-Fi or Internet Upgrades?

All divisions interested in taking advantage of Wi-Fi or Internet upgrades for the upcoming school year are encouraged to attend an upcoming webinar to learn more about the free services offered by EducationSuperHighway and the VDOE.

Please sign up below:

#### Webinar

Date: Wednesday, September 7

- Time: 3 p.m., EST
- Registration Link: <https://cc.readytalk.com/r/k8wp4knzkktl&eom>

#### Additional Resources

EducationSuperHighway also offers many free online resources to help divisions through all aspects of understanding or upgrading their networks:

- [Compare & Connect K-12](#): Leverages 2015 and 2016 E-rate application data to display broadband services and pricing. Many divisions have used the tool to negotiate bandwidth and pricing with their provider, using the data available in surrounding divisions.
- [School Wi-Fi Buyer's Guide](#): A comprehensive online resource to help technology directors understand wireless equipment and create a requirements list to give them confidence when evaluating solutions from multiple vendors.

- [Network Essentials for Superintendents](#): Provides actionable practices and expert tips for division leaders who are managing network upgrade projects.
- [Fiber Toolkit](#): Information for divisions on how to implement a fiber connection, research provider options, explore funding opportunities, craft an RFP and 470, and negotiate with vendors.