**Need better broadband? Perhaps we can help.**

The New Jersey Department of Education (NJ DOE) is working to help schools get faster broadband for a better price. The project is called the Digital Readiness for Learning and Assessment Project- Regional Broadband component (DRLAP-Broadband) and schools across the state are getting involved. Here is what you need to know:

**Why do schools need faster broadband?**

Online assessments are one important reason. Beginning next academic year, schools across New Jersey are required to administer standardized tests via the Internet. If your school’s broadband is too slow, your students might not be able to take the tests.

Digital learning is another reason. Schools across the nation are exploring new ways to personalize instruction and improve student academic performance using all different kinds of online resources. These resources won’t work if you don’t have fast and reliable broadband.

**How does the DRLAP-Broadband project work?**

It uses a concept called “demand aggregation”. It’s really very simple.

Just like most products and services, Internet can be purchased in bulk to achieve discounts on price. Individual school districts don’t have the volume to get significant savings on their own. However, working together, schools can combine their purchasing power and often achieve big savings. In Pennsylvania, several hundred schools used this approach to increase their broadband capacity by an average of 850 percent!

**What if I already have decent broadband access?**

Decent isn’t good enough for digital learning. We anticipate that most schools could benefit from consortium purchasing by getting better service or lower costs, or both.

**I am already in a long-term contract. Can I still participate?**

Yes. We have proven methods for accommodating schools in long-term contracts. Our team has successfully helped dozens of schools with long-term contracts participate in these types of arrangements.

**What do I need to do next?**

Get in touch with our project consultant John Matthews at jmatthews@dellicker.com. He will provide personalized assistance to get you started.