

DRLAP Broadband- Categories of Service

The main goal of the New Jersey Digital Readiness for Learning and Assessment (DRLAP) Broadband Component is to improve the Internet access of NJ schools. Buying Internet and related telecommunications services as part of a multi-district consortium is a proven way achieve this goal in a cost-effective manner.

Earlier this year, the NJ DRLAP team issued a Request for Information (RFI) to statewide Internet service providers (ISPs) and telecommunications companies to describe their service availability and budgetary pricing for consortium offerings to schools. The team analyzed the results of this RFI and organized available services into three categories: Basic Broadband Internet Access; Basic Wide Area Network and High-Speed Wide Area Network Service. School decision-makers may use the chart below to evaluate their technology needs and make decisions about the appropriate category of participation for the upcoming procurement.

Ideally, schools will select one of the Wide Area Network Service options (#2 or #3), which provide the fastest and most cost-effective long-term solutions. Very small schools or districts with limited budgets may choose Basic Broadband Internet Access. The idea is for every school to achieve at least some improvement in Internet access. If you have questions, please contact our DRLAP Broadband technology consultant John Matthews at jmatthews@dellicker.com.

Service Category	General Description	Technical Description	Estimated Costs	Choose this category if:	Don't choose this category if:
Category #1 Basic Broadband Internet Access	This includes affordable technologies such as cable modems, DSL circuits and Verizon FIOS. These are the same services used in homes and small businesses.	Asymmetric (different upload/download speeds) and best-effort services. Download speeds range from 5-150 megabits per second (Mbps) with upload speeds from 1-20 Mbps.	-\$50 to \$300/mo. pre-E-Rate. -Up to \$2,200/year after E-Rate.	-You are satisfied with your current level of service. -You cannot afford upgrades. -You don't anticipate growth in education technology applications at your school -You need a backup ISP	-You are only shopping. Please do not participate in the consortium procurement if you have no intention to buy. -You want to conduct bandwidth-intensive activities (you'll need category 2 or 3).
Category #2 Basic Wide Area Network Service (100 Mbps transport)	Basic Wide Area Networks (WANs) deliver Internet access purchased in bulk through 100 Mbps circuits that also provide any-to-any connectivity to other schools across NJ.	Basic WANs are private networks linking schools to each other and ISPs. They typically use Ethernet fiber (sometimes wireless) to provide scalable and reliable data connections.	-\$800 to \$2,000/mo. pre-E-Rate. -Up to \$15,000/year after E-Rate.	-You need up to 100 Mbps of Internet within a few years. -You will expand online and blended learning offerings. -You want reliable service backed by a binding service level agreement (SLA).	-You cannot spend more than \$10,000 per year on Internet. -You don't want to offer online courses or blended instruction to your students in the future. -You don't want to work together with other schools.
Category #3 High-Speed Wide Area Network Service (1,000 Mbps transport)	High-Speed WANs offer the most cost-effective way to buy Internet and exchange large amounts of information. They are highly reliable, very secure and easily scalable.	Fiber connections able to support current and future high-bandwidth school applications. Enables bulk purchase of large amounts of Internet access to save most money for schools.	-\$1,200 to \$3,500/mo. pre-E-Rate. - Up to \$25,000/yr. after E-Rate	-You want to provide the best available technology to students in your school. -You have ever-increasing Internet bandwidth needs -You want to share services with other NJ schools.	-You cannot afford it. -You don't need more than 100 Mbps of Internet for your district within the next three years. -You don't have the technology or instructional staff to support and use advanced technology.