



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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Acting Commissioner

December 9, 2014

TO: Chief School Administrators
Charter School Lead Persons
School Business Administrators
Nonpublic School Administrators

FROM: Evo Popoff, Assistant Commissioner/Chief Innovation Officer
Division of Charter Schools, School Choice, Technology, Turnarounds

SUBJECT: Regional Broadband Purchasing Cooperatives RFP Awards/**Deadline Extended to December 19**

Please be advised that the December 12 deadline for an initial response to indicate participation in the Middlesex Regional Educational Services Commission (MRESC) Wide Area Network (WAN) and Internet cooperative purchasing initiative, as outlined in a November 25 memo, has been extended to December 19. Remember, the MRESC is not seeking contractual commitments by this date, only an expression of interest so the MRESC team and the vendors can validate your service requirements and prepare contractual documents for your review. Your timely affirmation of interest will enable the circulation of contracts in January and ensure that all contractual arrangements, including any necessary board resolutions, are completed by March. Nothing is binding until you receive, review and execute a contract.

As indicated in the previous memo, while actual savings will vary, many districts and schools could save 50% or more by participating in this initiative, even while substantially increasing their bandwidth and further enabling the use of technology to support instruction, collaboration and operations. **All districts, charter schools and nonpublic schools in the state are eligible to participate in the Broadband Initiative regardless of where they are located, even if they did not initially submit a service order form and/or have not received an email from MRESC.**

If you have already received an email from MRESC regarding the Broadband Initiative, please reply by December 19. If you did not receive an email and wish to participate in the Broadband initiative, please send an email to coop@mresc.k12.nj.us immediately so you can get the information you require. We understand that you may have lots of questions about this process and the particular services awarded for your school district. The MRESC has a procurement website with additional information, including vendor-specific items and opportunities to attend informational meetings and webinars throughout December. **These meetings are filling up fast**, so please review the schedule at http://www.mresc.k12.nj.us/pages/Middlesex_Regional/News/DRLAP_Broadband_Component and **register for a session soon**. You may contact the MRESC directly with any questions at: coop@mresc.k12.nj.us or get additional information and resources via their website located at: http://www.mresc.k12.nj.us/pages/Middlesex_Regional/News/DRLAP_Broadband_Component.

This is an exciting project that can benefit students and educators across the state while providing substantial cost savings, and the Department is proud to support the work of the MRESC and its partners, Bergen County Technical Schools and the Educational Information and Resource Center. NJDOE is also pleased to recognize the Internet service providers who submitted winning proposals for the MRESC Wide Area Network (WAN) and Internet cooperative purchasing initiative RFP: Affiniti, Comcast, DNS, Lightpath, PenTeleData, Sunesys and XTEL. These companies will be providing increased broadband service to New Jersey districts and schools at competitive costs, supporting the 21st century digital learning goals of New Jersey schools and students.

If you have immediate questions regarding the Internet cooperative purchasing initiative, please contact MRESC Business Administrator/Board Secretary Mr. Patrick M. Moran at (732) 777-9848, ext. 3120, or pmoran@mresc.k12.nj.us.

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c: Members, State Board of Education
David C. Hespe, Acting Commissioner
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