

Eligibility for the Ohio K-12 Network Connectivity Subsidy

The Ohio K-12 Network connectivity subsidy is paid annually to eligible public and nonpublic schools that connect to the Ohio Educational Computer Network (OECN) to help offset the cost of supporting their local district networks. For FY10, the subsidy is \$2,000 per building per year. **The district must apply for this subsidy on an annual basis; it is not distributed automatically.** The criteria for eligibility are as follows:

1. Districts must maintain network connectivity to the Educational Computer Network (OECN). To be eligible, district applicants must comply with the technical connectivity requirements of the program. The technical requirements for 2009-10 school year can be found at http://etech.ohio.gov/programs/k12_network.
2. Districts must apply for this subsidy by completing the online application which will be located at http://etech.ohio.gov/programs/k12_network. eTech Ohio will attempt to notify potential applicants through Hall Pass when the application is made available. All potential applicants are encouraged to periodically visit http://etech.ohio.gov/programs/k12_network to check on the status of the applications process. Non-public schools should contact their ITC to inquire about their eligibility and application requirements for connectivity funding.
3. As part of the application process, districts will be required to submit to eTech Ohio a diagram of their Wide Area Network (WAN) demonstrating the utilization of one of the approved network connectivity models. Acceptable WAN models can be reviewed at http://etech.ohio.gov/programs/k12_network.
4. Districts applying for the subsidy must use the OECN Internet Service Provider (ISP) as their **primary** provider of connectivity to the Internet. Districts may contract with an ISP of their choosing for secondary or backup service; however they may not use program funds for this purpose.
5. To qualify for eligibility, the districts must apply for the federal eRate subsidy program, and must do so within the eligible filing window for the corresponding funding year. If you need assistance with eRate, please call **Lorrie Germann** at eTech Ohio, **614.485.6050**, or via email at lorrie.germann@etech.ohio.gov
6. Funding from this subsidy must be spent by June 30 of the fiscal year in which it is received. Please account for this funding using USAS Fund 451, Receipt Code 3210 with a unique Special Cost Center.

Important dates to remember:

eTech Ohio will post the online application in **(need date here)**.

All subsidy applications (application and WAN diagram) must be completed and submitted to eTech Ohio by **October 30, 2009**. No applications will be accepted after that date.

All completed applications will be reviewed by regional Information Technology Centers for accuracy. This review will be completed by **November 30, 2009**.

School districts will have until **November 30, 2009**, to revise an application, if necessary, based on the ITC review.

Reviewed applications will then be processed by eTech Ohio and ODE by **January 22, 2010**. Funds for approved applications will be distributed periodically once the approval process begins.