

OHIO K-12 NETWORK

SUBJECT: Eligibility and Spending Guidelines

DATE: July 31, 2009

RELATED DOCUMENTS: Ohio K-12 Network Technical Connectivity Rules

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this document is to define the eligibility and spending guidelines for the Ohio K-12 Network Grant opportunity.

DEFINITION:

The Ohio K-12 Network is a joint effort between eTech Ohio and the Ohio Department of Education. The Ohio K-12 Network was created in fiscal year 2000 (as ONEnet Ohio) to provide funding to assist all Ohio school districts in connecting to the statewide, K-12 educational technology network. The Ohio K-12 Network offers services to all public school districts in the State of Ohio, linking classrooms to each other and the Internet, while providing access to voice, data, video, electronic mail and other educational resources for students, teachers and administrators.

ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES:

The Ohio K-12 Network connectivity subsidy is paid annually to eligible public and chartered nonpublic schools that connect to the Ohio K-12 Network to help offset the cost of supporting their local district networks. The five criteria for eligibility are as follows:

1. Districts must maintain network connectivity to the Ohio K-12 Network. 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://www.etech.ohio.gov/programs/k12_network.
2. Districts must apply for this subsidy by completing the online application which will be located at http://www.etech.ohio.gov/programs/k12_network. Districts must adhere to the application deadlines to be eligible for subsidy. Non-public schools should contact their ITC to inquire about their eligibility and application requirements for connectivity funding.
3. Districts are 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://www.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. Districts must apply for the federal E-Rate subsidy program and must do so within the eligible filing window for the corresponding funding year.

SPENDING GUIDELINES:

Funding from this subsidy must be spent by June 30 of the fiscal year in which it is received. Ohio K-12 Network FY10 connectivity funds are to be spent as follows, with priority given in the order listed:

- Offset the cost of eligible WAN connectivity to each of your buildings
- Management or ISP fees charged by your ITC

- Maintenance for LAN or WAN hardware necessary to implement the Ohio K-12 Network model
- Upgrade WAN capacity
- Purchase videoconferencing equipment that complies with the Ohio K-12 Network technical requirements
- Upgrade or purchase LAN equipment including routers, switches, Internet caching and multimedia streaming products
- Other LAN related equipment
- Professional development services

APPLICATION REVIEW PROCESS:

- eTech Ohio will post the online application.
- 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 16, 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. Please note: While entities will only have to apply once, payments will now be made bi-annually with the first half of the award being processed after the application is approved and the second half of the award being processed in spring of FY10.