



**Prospect Heights School District 23
Finance Committee Memorandum
Information Item**

Date: February 24, 2022

Subject: E-rate Category 1, Category 2, and ECF Program Update

Prepared by: Maria Stavropoulos, Director of Technology

This memo is intended to provide an update of our E-rate Category 1, Category 2, ECF Program requests, and next steps.

The District has partnered with WOW! for its Wide Area Network (WAN) and Dedicated Internet Access (DIA) internet connections for both campuses for some years now. This contract expires in June 2022. We are fortunate to have the opportunity and approval to proceed with The Illinois Century Network (ICN) to obtain our internet and intranet services moving forward. ICN is a high-performing network, specifically built to meet the needs of educational institutions. Their services are at no financial cost to the District for the foreseeable future.

We will need to contract with RCN Business (formally known as WOW!) for month-to-month services for our WAN and DIA internet connection until we are able to fully transition to ICN's services. We have applied for E-rate Category 1 (RFP/470) reimbursement for a portion of our month-to-month services for our WAN and DIA internet connection. The portion is based on our free and reduced numbers. It is anticipated that once we have moved to the ICN connection and receive our services from ICN, we will maintain a redundant line with RCN for at least 1Gb of service as best practice for educational institutions.

Additionally, as the Board of Education is aware, last February 2021 we entered into an agreement with a Managed Service Provider, EMPiST to support managed network and cybersecurity services. Since this transition was outside of the scope of time to file for E-rate Category 2 (RFP/470) reimbursement for the services that qualify, we have gone ahead and applied during this year's window.

Our E-rate filing also includes several Cisco hardware items that require replacement and qualify for reimbursement. We anticipate the cost of the Cisco hardware and support for implementation not to exceed \$20,000, pre-E-rate reimbursement.

We are also pleased to share that the District has qualified for Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Emergency Connectivity Funds (ECF) through E-rate. Through this program, we applied for and have been granted 165 iPads for our incoming Kindergartners at no cost to the District, and an additional 160 iPads with a case bundle at a cost of just under \$43.00 per unit, and just under \$7,000.00 for our incoming 5th-graders iPads. Both the purchase and reimbursement revenue will be budgeted in FY2023. The approximated expenditure of \$7,000 will be allocated in the FY2023 Technology Supply line item.