

E-Rate 2020-21

Internet, WAN connections also known as Category 1 services - we have received our approval for funding our internet with 3 Rivers Communications for the Browning campuses and with our usual debates with the e-rate people for the colonies as well. The colonies take extra resources to get their dollars approved as they do not participate in the lunch program like all our other campuses do. These services will be provided at the 90% reimbursement rate for the 2020-21 fiscal year.

Our Category 2 items include wireless infrastructure and network switches. A portion of this is for the expansion of the middle school and as yet to be determined what e-rate will cover for network infrastructure for the sports stadium. There are some technicalities as e-rate says they do not cover gyms and sports stadiums while we and most every district counters that they are classroom spaces during the day. In a normal year we would probably know if we were to be approved by mid-June but with the COVID this year and everyone filing last minute, the approvals may not come into the next fiscal year. This may entail us needing to take a bit of a gamble in purchasing network equipment for the middle school addition with anticipation that we are fairly certain that we will receive e-rate approval for the equipment.

Student connectivity -

A shout out to 3 Rivers getting around 100 families connected with internet through the end of the school year. We of course have around 120 Verizon Jet Packs out with students and staff to keep them connected.

Soon will arrive the time for students to check all the equipment back in for the summer at which time we will be able to take assessment of what may or may not need to be replaced for the upcoming school year to be purchased over the summer.