

Technology Board Report

March 2024 - Sam Rigby

Erate - March 8th was the deadline to receive proposals for internet service for FY25. We received responsive proposals from GCI, GES (DRS), and Microcom. We are now reviewing and scoring each proposal.

BAG - Pending the governor's signature, SB140 will increase BAG-eligible bandwidth from the current 25mbps to 100mbps. Any internet contracts we sign for FY25 will include the option to upgrade to 100mbps as soon as we are able, if applicable. Not all proposed internet service requires the additional BAG discount to be affordable.

Our current contract with GES is \$23600/site annually for the 8 schools with 25m connections. BAG provides a \$15,000/site annual discount.

Starlink - The Starlink terminals at Newhalen and Port Alsworth have always underperformed since we installed them. We were only ever able to download at a maximum of 30mbps on either connection, whereas we were seeing 200+ mbps at our other schools. Several weeks ago we noticed a massive performance improvement at both schools. They are now averaging download speeds of 100-200mbps. We believe this was the result of a Starlink satellite update.

BBRCTE - Schyler, Nate, and I have spent the last several months purchasing, configuring, and deploying the simulators funded by BBRCTE's USDA grant awards. These simulators will provide career exploration and virtual training for heavy equipment operations, aviation, maritime, welding, driving, and more. Simulators and/or VR headsets will be deployed to all LPSD schools.

