

Technology Department
November 2016

E-rate

The e-rate saga around the country continues. While we are relatively certain that we will be awarded e-rate for our Internet and 50% of our telephony costs, hundreds of districts around the country, including ours, are growing impatient with the delays at USAC (the department that administers e-rate) without any good explanation. The numbers released by USAC show they are running at about 25-30% of the pace in approving e-rate awards compared to the two prior years.

What does this mean for BPS? We are currently running \$5300 per month to 3 Rivers. With the e-rate dollars applied, this would be closer to \$2400 per month with the e-rate dollars applied, therefore the impatient wait of USAC getting things approved.

Security Cameras

Cameras have been installed at all locations. Final connections and testing will be coming with a possible demo in December or January.

Making teachers mobile-

All certified staff in the district have now been issued MacBook Air systems. Our next steps will be installing Apple TV's, wireless bluetooth devices for smartboards, and some training. Our goal is to make all our learning spaces ready to go when a staff member enters the room by opening their laptop, projecting their display onto the Apple TV, plug in the adapter for the Smart Board if desired and start teaching. Without wires in many of the classrooms to tether teachers to desks, they will be able to move about the room, with their wireless technology as fits their new cordless style.

We will be exploring outfitting remaining teachers with iPads as an additional tool in their tech arsenal in their classrooms to present additional learning opportunities to our customers.