

# Memo



**To:** Dr. Karla Guseman  
**CC:** Board of Education  
**From:** Dr. Ilandus Hampton  
**Date:** 02/17/26  
**Re:** E-Rate Recommendation for Core Switch Refresh

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E-Rate is a program provided by the Federal Communication Commission (FCC), that makes telecommunication and information services more affordable for schools and libraries. Eligible schools and libraries may receive discounts on telecommunications, telecommunications services, and Internet access, as well as internal connections, managed internal broadband services and basic maintenance of internal connections. Discounts range from 20 to 90 percent and are based on the poverty level of the schools. Based on our free and reduced percentage, we receive an 80% discount.

Federal Guidelines dictate the specifications and bidding requirements. The district is requesting to replace our campus core networking hardware at Central and West High Schools. These are critical systems nearing end of life and must be updated to ensure continued reliability and performance. This upgrade will facilitate the ability to increase bandwidth to our campus distribution points, allowing for greater network capacity for students and staff to support learning in all areas of each campus. Also, this upgrade allows increased cybersecurity capabilities while reducing the district's overall power and cooling needs.

The E-Rate program has approved our application to fund a portion of this project. Our E-Rate discount is 80%, which covers \$172,557.13 of the cost of the project. The total cost to the district would be \$43,139.29. *Note: Removed items that were not included in the bid specifications.*

The administration recommends that the Board of Education approve the E-Rate Core Switch Refresh hardware CDW Government quote for \$215,696.42.

If you have any questions, please contact me at your convenience.

Thank you.