



# Districts 90, 97, and 200



e-Rate Consortium agreement  
December 2016



# e-Rate consortium agreement

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What is it?

Why do we need it?

What would we use it for?

When will we use it?

# What is the e-Rate consortium agreement?

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An agreement between the public school districts in Oak Park and River Forest to allow them to work as a single entity for the purposes of sharing services and purchasing equipment.

# Why do we need this agreement?

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The primary driver of this agreement is to allow the three districts to act as a single entity for the purpose of obtaining e-Rate funding.

E-rate funding will provide us 40-50% discount on equipment and services.

E-rate funding is available to all three districts individually. This agreement does not change that. However, for us to connect our networks or to purchase hardware or software together, we must have a consortium agreement.

# What would we use it for?

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We would use this agreement to allow us to connect the networks of the three districts.

We would connect the three districts to allow us to share services, resources, etc. Although e-Rate funding cannot be used for backup and redundancy, the interconnect of our networks would allow us great flexibility in delivering our services. This interconnection would also provide us an opportunity to share resources than would not be possible without it.

This also opens the possibility of sharing facilities between the districts.

# When would we use it?

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Assuming Board approval in December 2016 or January 2017, we would file for e-Rate funding for the 2017-18 school year.

We could be up and running as soon as the fall of 2017.

We still need to explore the budget impact (which should be minimal) and the security and privacy implications of the interconnection, but we need the agreement to move forward.

# Approval

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We are asking the Boards of Education of Districts 90, 97, and 200 to approve the e-Rate consortium agreement.

Presentations will be made at respective Board meetings in December 2016 or January 2017.