

Contract with CDWG for Technology Upgrades under eRate

Background:

The FCC's eRate program makes telecommunications and information services more affordable for schools and libraries. With funding from the Universal Service Fund, eRate provides discounts for telecommunications, internet access, and internal connections to eligible 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. Rural schools and libraries may also receive a higher discount. Recipients must pay some portion of the service costs.

How the eRate Program Works:

An eligible school identifies goods or services it needs and submits a request for competitive bids to the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC). USAC posts these requests on its website for vendors to bid on. After reviewing the vendors' bids, the school selects the most cost-effective eligible products and services using price as the primary factor. It then applies to USAC for approval for the desired purchases.

Next, USAC issues funding commitments to eligible applicants. When a vendor provides the selected services, either the vendor or the applicant submits requests to USAC for reimbursement of the approved discounts.

Cost/benefit Analysis:

If approved by the school board, federal **eRate funds will cover 80 percent** of the following network costs for our school district:

• Cisco Meraki Cloud Managed MS225-48FP - switch - 48 ports - rack-	\$41,011.10
• CISCO DIRECT MR46-HW	\$11,472.00
• Cisco Meraki Enterprise - subscription license (5 years) + 5	\$6,967.10
• Cisco Meraki Enterprise Cloud Controller - subscription license	\$3,625.65
Grand Total	\$63,075.85

*The contract with CDWG is available for viewing on the **EXTRAS** tab of BoardBoard. It has been omitted from the main board materials due to its length and volume.*

Recommended Action:

I recommend the board move to approve the contract with CDWG for technology upgrades under federal eRate funding and subsequently approve the eRate application of BK Schools.