

Eligible Services for Telecommunications Funding Reimbursement

To access this revenue, school districts and public libraries must submit costs for **recurring** telecommunications access costs associated with Internet access, data lines, video services and other transport media that deliver these services for educational and information access purposes.

The maximum recurring costs that a school district or public library can submit for reimbursement from this revenue program is limited to the aggregate cost equivalent of ONE data circuit or video link or integrated service circuit that relies on a transport medium that operates at a speed of 1.544 megabytes per second (T1/DS1 speed) for each elementary, middle or high school entity (as defined by the Minnesota Department of Education, not each building) in the school district or for each eligible (as defined by MDE standards for public library service) public library in a regional public library system and two circuits for a regional public library system headquarters.

Network installation and maintenance costs are allowable. Hardware and equipment are not eligible, except for the data router or other device needed to access the data or video service. Only Internet or video Point of Presence (POP) links will be funded. Internal WAN and LAN costs will be the responsibility of the local district or public library, unless the district or public library has an agreement with an outside entity providing WAN services between buildings and the link is required to bring Internet to that location. Items NOT covered are district and public library technology personnel, telephone access, PBX, Centrex, voice mail and any equipment beyond the Internet demarcation point.

Districts and public libraries may also claim the recurring telecommunications access costs and maintenance/support costs associated with cooperative agreements with other school districts, post-secondary institutions and community and regional public libraries in their geographic area. NOTE: Cooperative organizations do not generate local revenue and must allocate telecommunications access costs associated with providing their services to their participant sites, which may then submit these costs for reimbursement from the funding for the eligible services. Cooperative services may include gateways, peering points, regional network infrastructure, coordination of services, Internet2 access and network maintenance and support services.

Districts and public libraries may continue to purchase ongoing or recurring telecommunications access services through existing contracts. E-Rate applications must be submitted for each service for which reimbursement is requested. As with the E-Rate program, only actual costs can be reimbursed. Written contracts will be made available to the Minnesota Department of Education upon request.

Services must be deployed in a cost effective and service efficient manner. Entities found not abiding by statutory requirements and Minnesota Department of Education policy will be denied access to reimbursement funds for a term of one year and will be required to pay back all revenue received for non-eligible services or services to a non-eligible site.

An annual financial report of funds received and services purchased is required by each entity receiving reimbursement funds. In addition, a forecast for funds to be requested for next fiscal year will also be required at a time determined by the Minnesota Department of Education.

Approved by K-12 Education/Public Library Telecommunications and Internet Access Services Region Coordinator's Group on December 18, 2003