

January 14, 2004

FY 2005 Legislative Request

E-12 and Public Library Telecommunications and Internet Access Services

The state of Minnesota should assume ongoing responsibility for the full operational cost of a shared, statewide telecommunications infrastructure that provides equal access for all schools and libraries, including students and library patrons at all socioeconomic levels and in all geographic locations. Incentives for increased collaboration among schools, libraries, higher education, local government and with communities in underserved areas of our state should be provided. The resulting network will connect all Minnesotans to continued learning opportunities and the information resources essential for economic survival, and will insure Minnesota's viability in the digital millennium.

The existing Learning Network of Minnesota infrastructure connects E-12 schools and public libraries to each other, to Minnesota higher education, and to worldwide learning resources through a shared, interoperable network. To be efficient, we need to better define and aggregate the needs of the users we serve and employ higher capacity, lower unit cost technologies. To be effective, because of growth and complexity of usage, we must continue to meet the day to day needs of users as the network evolves.

Approved by Coordinator's Group September 19, 2002 and confirmed January 14, 2004