

Memo

Idaho State Department of Education

To: District Superintendents, Principals, Business Managers and Technology Directors
From: Tom Luna, Idaho Superintendent of Public Instruction
CC: Joyce Popp, Chief Information Officer
Date: 5/14/2014
Re: Wireless Contract Information

Since I took office as State Superintendent, my vision has been to provide equal access to the best educational opportunities for every Idaho student, no matter where they live or attend school. One of the ways we have been able to accomplish this is by expanding technology through the high-speed broadband internet of the Idaho Education Network and now through the Idaho High School Wireless Managed Service Project. As we discussed on the 2014 Post-Legislative Tour, the Idaho High School Wireless Managed Service Project began in 2013 and will be expanded in 2014 to give local school districts and public charter schools serving high school grades more flexibility in pursuing how to create a wireless environment.

In 2013, the Idaho State Department of Education signed a five-year contract with Education Networks of America (ENA) to provide a managed service to install and maintain wireless technology in every public school serving high school grades. This contract includes all of the necessary content filtering and security to protect the students of Idaho. The Idaho Legislature funded this contract in FY2014 with one-time funding. For the upcoming FY2015 budget, the Idaho Legislature demonstrated its continued support for wireless connectivity in Idaho's high schools through new legislation, House Bill 643. Under this legislation, the Legislature continued its appropriation of \$2,250,000 in one-time funding to continue the second year of the Department's multi-year contract with ENA and to provide additional flexibility for school districts if they want to create their own wireless system. Whether schools choose to opt into the statewide contract for the Idaho High School Wireless Managed Service Project or contract with a vendor of their choice to create wireless, the funding stream is currently one-time funding. We fully anticipate the Legislature will continue this funding in future years, but it is not guaranteed.

Specifically, for the upcoming school year, school districts or public charter schools serving high school grades may choose from the following three options:

1. **Option #1** – Continue with the current statewide contract per intent language from H643 which states, *“Expend for any current contracts entered into by the state department of education for wireless technology infrastructure.”* Districts that did not

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- opt-in to the statewide contract last school year may choose to opt-in to the statewide contract this year by notifying the State Department of Education by August 1, 2014.
2. **Option #2** – Districts that did not opt-in to the statewide contract by August 1, 2013 may choose to install a wireless solution of their own that meets the requirements, as outlined in the policy per intent language from H643 which states, *“Distribute to school districts and charter schools that did not submit an approved application to receive wireless technology infrastructure pursuant to the statewide contract, \$21.00 per student enrolled at such schools, in such grades...”*
 3. **Option #3** – Districts may choose to opt-out of the current service by signing an official opt-out form prior to June 30, 2014 to which Education Networks of America (ENA) will remove all equipment and service. This option is per intent language within H643 which states, *“Distribute to school districts and charter schools currently receiving services under the statewide contract for wireless technology infrastructure that choose during the remainder of fiscal year 2014, to withdraw from such services, \$21.00 per student enrolled at such schools, in such grades.”*

The SDE will continue to follow Idaho Code 33-1025, which outlines the standards that must be met for wireless technology before a school can receive state funds. These standards include, but are not limited to, specific functionality, validation testing, content filtering and wireless security that adheres to the Children’s Internet Protection Act (CIPA). The SDE developed wireless functionality, performance and reliability standards that were included within the original Request for Proposal (RFP) from 2013 ([Link](#)). In addition, the original RFP included details on support, performance, reliability and security where it is also clearly stated that there could possibly be non-appropriation or reduced funding. This section of the RFP states that, *“The SDE is a government entity and it is understood and agreed that the State’s payments herein provided for shall be paid from Idaho State Legislative appropriations. The Legislature is under no legal obligation to make appropriations to fulfill this Contract. This Contract shall in no way or manner be construed so as to bind or obligate the State of Idaho beyond the term of any particular appropriation of funds by the State’s Legislature as may exist from time to time.”*

Therefore, as required under Idaho Code 33-1025, the SDE has written the Wireless Requirements Policy manual that details all requirements of connectivity, wireless coverage, Internet access, bandwidth and many more requirements. This policy manual includes a basic technical requirements reference sheet which can be found in the policy manual located on the SDE website ([Link](#)). Districts will adhere to the requirements within this policy manual, as well as receive an in-person walkthrough and confirmation test that requirements are being met within all three options as displayed above. This walkthrough certification document is displayed at the end of this memo. Once the certification is complete and signed off by the appropriate parties, the monies will be distributed to the school district or charter school at the rate of \$21.00 per student in grades 9-12. The law also provides for the Legislative Branch to perform service audits on the compliance to the requirements and district satisfaction.

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It is the intention of the SDE to support all school districts and public charter schools, regardless of the option that they choose, within the parameters of this project and the associated policies. After reading the requirements, each district or charter school should review their options and choose the option that best meets their needs.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact Joyce Popp jpopp@sde.idaho.gov or (208) 332-6970.

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STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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TOM LUNA
STATE SUPERINTENDENT
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

Idaho High School Wireless Managed Service Project Implementation Certification

Initialization	Metric
	Coverage: Service provides RF signal strength of at least -70dBm (or better) as measured in the 2.4 GHz spectrum in all locations where wireless service is to be provided
	Roaming: A wireless device can successfully roam through the coverage area without performance degradation or signal loss or a requirement to re-authenticate
	Coverage: The School District and SDE agree that all academic areas serving grades 9-12 have sufficient wireless coverage and capacity (coverage shall be augmented or altered to meet changing needs as indicated per the standard established in the State standards).
	Network Design: Appropriate SSID design, switch configuration, and network adaptation has been successfully achieved by the vendor/district
	Availability: Local access points continue functioning with their last known good configuration even if they lose connectivity to the management plane / controller
	Continuity: System provides redundant management plane architecture containing two separate network management appliances installed at two different secure, (carrier-class) "data centers".
	Secure Backups: All data, including all network and RF and security configurations as well as all reporting data, is securely backed up on a nightly basis
	Integration: firewall and content filtering allow access from the local LAN to the wireless management application
	Onsite Controllers: controllers are redundant, secure, and physically separated to facilitate the redundant design (OR) Offsite Controllers: are redundant in "the cloud" and Availability is secured, as stated above

School District

Superintendent

Date

Technology Coordinator (Designee)

Date

Program Manager

Date

Upon verification of this certification, the aforementioned school district is migrated from Implementation to Operations, per the Idaho State Follow up Items for Operations:

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