

The E-Rate's investment in Category 2 Wi-Fi and internal connections funding is extremely valuable and could not be replaced by school, district or state funds.

Our district has already used some of our E-Rate Category 2 allotment for the following items: First use of funds was for uninterruptable power supplies for our MDF's and IDF's (16-17). Second use was wireless access points and switches (17-18).

The connectivity provided by these Category 2 items has improved our school or district's educational experience in the following ways: It has allowed for less down time due to power outages/brown outs and will increase our Wireless capacity as well as provide us with the latest wireless standards. In turn, the new wireless infrastructure will be able to handle more devices and expanded bandwidth as we continue deploying Chromebooks to our students.

Dollar amounts for each project were:

UPS Project - USAC Funded Portion: \$32,840 Local Portion: \$16,660

Wireless Project - USAC Funded Portion: \$347,008 Local Portion: \$86,752

With limited budget available on a local level, there is no way we could have done the wireless project in such a short amount of time. We would have had to spread the project over 4 to 5 years.

Next year we will be applying for funds to upgrade our fiber optic lines in our buildings to allow for more bandwidth capacity as data requirements and student devices increase. #