The Santa Cruz County School Superintendent’s Office has created a countywide consortium to maximize savings and improve quality internet service in our schools and libraries. The consortium, which includes 5 of our six school districts, all libraries, one private school, and one charter school, was created to maximize the benefits of the E-rate program which is critical for rural Arizona. Santa Cruz County is very different from large communities like Phoenix and Tucson where almost unlimited bandwidth may be purchased at low costs. In rural Arizona the cost per Mbps is much more and our schools and libraries were forced to sacrifice their budgets to provide quality internet service. The average cost for all E-rate eligible entities in Santa Cruz County is $31.05 per Mbps, with the highest cost being $81.50/Mbps. E-rate reduces that cost by over 80%. Without E-rate, our rural schools and libraries in our county would not be able to provide the quality and cost savings they deserve.