



Public Schools of North Carolina  
State Board of Education  
Department of Public Instruction



# CHARTER SCHOOL CONNECTIVITY FUNDING OPTIONS



# Two Options for Funding

- Funding for Internet Bandwidth via PRC Allocation (Default)
- NCREN Internet Services Bundle provided by the state at no costs to the Charter school



# Funding via Allocation

- Charter receives connectivity funds (via PRC 036) from NCDPI and contracts with a service provider for Internet access.
- Will also need to contract separately for any services such as Content Filter or Firewall.
- Funds will not scale. The funding algorithm will remain constant even if bandwidth needs increase.





# NCREN Internet Services Bundle

- Is Provided at NO cost to the Charter School in lieu of the funding allocation option
- NCDPI provides Internet Access via NCREN
  - 10Mbps Internet connection provided
    - Bandwidth is **scaled** as utilization warrants **at no cost** to the charter school. The charter school is only responsible for the initial set-up and installation costs, if any.
    - As part of the bundled Internet Access offering, provides **no cost** access to a bundle of Connectivity security services such as Content Filtering and Firewall services.



# Connectivity Comparison

## DEFAULT

- No Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with NCDPI is required.
- NCDPI distributes connectivity funds (via PRC036) automatically each fall/winter.
- Charter is responsible for all costs related to installation, operations, and maintenance of all connectivity.
- Charter is responsible for any filing of related E-Rate applications
- Charter is NOT connected to NCREN and related services (e.g. Internet2, firewall, filter)
- Charter receives an amount equal to 50% of the annual cost of a single 100 Mbps connection in their area, based on current State Term Contract pricing, regardless of the number of locations.

## NCREN

- MOU with NCDPI is required.
- NCDPI requires an E-rate Letter of Agency and annual E-rate Form 479 (CIPA Compliance) from the charter for filing of local loop (fiber), ISP, and router related E-rate.
- NCDPI notifies NCREN partners of charter school's decision.
- NCDPI becomes fiscally obligated for the reoccurring local loop (fiber), ISP, and router charges.
- NCREN partners provide guidance as necessary related to charter's installation cost obligations issues/questions.
- NCREN will collect subscription agreement from Charter.
- Charter is connected to NCREN and NCREN related services (e.g. Internet2). Firewall and filtering are opt-in.
- Only one NCREN connection is provided per charter/district. Therefore multi-location charter schools must procure WAN service for additional sites (generally speaking: separated by a public right of way). NCDPI will reimburse a multi-location charter school (via PRC036) for up to 100% of the, after E-rate discounts, out-of-pocket WAN reoccurring costs. If the multi-location charter does not file E-rate then the amount will be calculated based on what the E-rate discount would have been had they applied (minimum 40% E-rate or 1% NSLP).
- Charter is responsible for any filing of WAN related E-Rate applications.



## More Information...

Contact NCDPI Connectivity Services Manager

Barry Pace

[barry.pace@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:barry.pace@dpi.nc.gov)

Or Your Network Analyst...

John Warf (Regions 1-4)

[john.warf@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:john.warf@dpi.nc.gov)

Michael Ramsey (Regions 5-8)

[michael.ramsey@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:michael.ramsey@dpi.nc.gov)

