



Governor's Broadband for
Education Initiative

March 8, 2017

Subject: 2017 E-rate Cycle Competitive Bidding Options for Internet Access Services

Dear Educational Institution,

Under the Governor's Broadband for Education (BB4E) Initiative, the New Mexico Public Education Department (PED) is supporting NM Public Schools, Charter Schools, and Libraries by providing the best options possible for their broadband procurements. As a result, this is the first year PED is sponsoring **Statewide Price Agreements for Internet Access Services for Educational Institutions**, under RFP # 70-000-16-00013. These agreements are E-rate compliant, adhere to sound technical standards and best practices, and serve as one option to compare against quotes gathered independently via Form 470. The easiest way to view pricing is to download the **Broadband Information Sheet** prepared for your institution, (download here: <http://www.broadband4education.nm.gov/broadband-info-sheets.aspx>).

If planning to upgrade this year, Educational Institutions are encouraged to:

1. **Issue their own Form 470** in order to seek out competitive options. The Broadband Information Sheet provides a comprehensive list of all known vendors per District/area and how to contact them. *The Statewide Price Agreements can serve as qualified bids against the 470, in addition to any other bids that individual institutions receive.*
2. **Submit Form 470 no later than March 31, 2017** to allow vendors enough time to respond to requests.
3. Use PED's free, and recently upgraded, online **Mini-Quote System**.
 - To Register: <http://www.broadband4education.nm.gov/request-mini-quote-account.aspx>
 - For Training: <http://www.broadband4education.nm.gov/mini-quote-resources.aspx>

In order to create a competitive bidding environment with complete transparency, PED's Mini-Quote System is now open to all New Mexico Internet Service Providers who want to bid on Internet Access Services for Educational Institutions.

4. **Utilize the free tools and resources** online at <http://www.broadband4education.nm.gov>. Educational Institutions should consider using the BB4E Checklist to get started (http://www.broadband4education.nm.gov/uploads/FileLinks/a6cbda6b6c3345ecbadd0cfa50aa1ae/Checklist_Version_1.docx), the Broadband Information Sheet, and Form 470 Template (http://www.broadband4education.nm.gov/uploads/FileLinks/a6cbda6b6c3345ecbadd0cfa50aa1ae/ESH_470_template_Version_1.docx).

All New Mexico Public Schools (including Charter Schools) that fall below the 1 megabit per second (mbps) per student goal are strongly encouraged to start using free Internet Service Provider Outreach Services offered by EducationSuperHighway's **New Mexico Upgrade Team**. Visit this webpage to schedule an introductory call: <https://calendly.com/new-mexico/kickoff-call/02-28-2017>.

Due to the E-rate application timeline, we encourage you to begin the process as soon as possible.

In advance, thank you for your participation in this initiative to improve Internet Access Service affordability for NM Public Schools, Charter Schools, and Libraries.

Best regards,

BB4E Team