

August 21, 2019

Illinois Public K-12 Schools,

Governor Pritzker and the Illinois Department of Innovation & Technology (DoIT) are excited to announce that state funding has been allocated for a secure K-12 Broadband Network available at no cost for all Illinois K-12 public school districts.

This program removes barriers limiting access to secure Internet bandwidth essential in today's digital learning environment. The key objective is to provide connectivity through the Illinois Century Network (ICN), ensuring every Illinois public K-12 school district has sufficient and fully funded bandwidth to meet the needs of their students, faculty and administration.

To participate, complete the <u>"Letter of Agency</u>" and send to <u>DoIT.ICN.K12@illinois.gov</u> by September 6, 2019, to become a member of the DoIT E-rate consortium. Consortium membership is mandatory to receive Internet access and services at no charge. Once we receive the <u>"Letter of</u> <u>Agency"</u>, DoIT will file future E-rate subsidy on your behalf.

Membership benefits include Internet access, last mile broadband connections, WAN circuits, router upgrades and security services including firewalls, filtering, DDoS protection and Network monitoring, all at no charge.

The ICN was built as an Internet and Intranet network to serve Illinois K-12 schools and has been fulfilling that mission for over 20 years. The ICN is managed by DoIT and functions as a state-wide communications network serving K-12 schools, higher education, libraries, museums and local and state government. See <u>www.illinois.net</u> for more information about ICN services.

Please register for one of our informational webinars scheduled in August and September to learn more about the Illinois K-12 Broadband Network. <u>Click here to register.</u>

Contact ICN Field Operations Manager, Robin Woodsome at <u>DoIT.ICN.K12@illinois.gov</u> with any questions. The ICN is a member-driven network and we value your input.

Sincerely,

Lori Sorenson Chief Technology Officer