

July 21, 2015

Sugar Salem Presentation

To:

Broadband Access Legislative
Study Committee

District Demographics

- 1550 students
- 1 Elementary (400 Students)
- 1 Intermediate (400 Students)
- 1 Junior High (250 Students)
- 1 Alternative HS (15 students)
- 1 High School (500 Students)
- North of Rexburg in a rural farming community. There is no business and no tourism. Second to lowest property value in the state.
- Rank in the top quartile in academics

How we use broadband access

- **Idaho Education Network**
 - 15 classes/year
 - All dual HS/College credit
 - Health and Wellness 155
 - Communications 101
 - Psych 101
 - History 111 and 112
 - Math 143 and 144
 - English 111 and 112
 - Economics 101
 - Statistics
- **300 students have taken classes during the past 2 years over the IEN.**

Gradpoint

- **Commercial online education program we purchased for our alternative hs students.**
 - Exclusively our only curriculum
 - Must have online to provide the flexibility they need.
- **HS students use it for 8 in 6 program and Early Completer**
- **Out of 500 hs stds 325 have taken one or more Gradpoint (online) classes. This summer have over 120 students taking classes.**

Student Access to the Internet

- **HS has one to one devices**
 - Almost all research done online.
 - Students don't use encyclopedias at all. Research is done online
 - Almost all teachers use Canvas where assignments are completed and turned in online.
 - Student collaboration is key element
 - We have developed own/enhanced free textbooks
 - Teachers teach remotely when needed
 - Has changed our teaching for the better
- **Other schools have Chromebooks, iPads, iPods which must have a broadband connection**
 - Skype
 - Video conferencing

Other broadband access

- **IDLA – number of students varies by year**
 - Primarily to prepare students for the CNA program.
 - Students participating in the entrepreneur program \$5000 scholarship for creating app called Smart Shot.
- **Accelerated Reader**
- **STAR testing**
- **Lexia Learning**

Adult Education via Video Conferencing

- Educational Leadership and other education Masters programs
- Patron education programs
- Regional technology meetings
- PowerSchool user groups
- Other training

Legislature

- Patron communication with legislature each session
 - Rotary, Kiwanis, etc.

Telephone

- Voice Over Internet Protocol – VOIP
 - ☞ No telephone without broadband access

State and Federal Requirements

- **ISEE**
- **SBAC**
 - Even if use a different test – tests are almost all online
- **State reporting**
 - Many, many state reports that are required to be online

In a nutshell...

- **Broadband access plays a essential role in education.**
- **If state will not provide a private network state must dedicate funds for broadband access as a minimum**
 - **Flexibility vs dedicated**
 - **Metropolitan areas vs rural**
- **Without this funding our district will extremely handicapped**

Sugar Salem IEN Transfer History

- **Contacted several internet providers:**
 - Century Link, Proficient Telecom, ENA, Silverstar, Cable one , and Tekhut
 - RFP was equivalent bandwidth currently provided by state IEN.

Took lowest price which was from ENA who IEN was using.

- We had a 100 mbps connection
- No other provider could “turn up” services with the short timeline of news of termination of the IEN, regardless of cost. (some districts could)

IEN

- IEN Was technically sound, the problem was the contractual agreement the state entered into requires one vendor (CenturyLink) to provide physical connections.
- Easy set amount per student per meg
- 1 allocation for a set amount based on equal access for students
- Private network with QOS for schools to deliver synchronous online classes
- School curriculum is increasing to leverage online curriculum and resources.

Option 1

District Contracts with provider without direct state funding

- Current funding methods are not adequate to burden many districts with additional monthly cost especially small and rural districts.
- Access to internet would be unequal
 - Urban vs Rural connections(70% of school districts are rural)
- Lose economy of scale
- Lose Private Network (bandwidth and speed IEN classes)

Option 2

- **District Contracts with provider**
Receive state reimbursement
(current plan)
 - **Equal access to students**
 - **Cost of equal access (Rural vs urban)**
extremely varied per mb
 - **Loses economy of scale**
 - **Lose Private Network and QOS**

Option 3

- **Statewide Network (IEN)**
 - **Dedicated Fiber access for all schools**
 - **Fiber Provided QOS “Quality of Service”**
 - **Private network between:**
 - **District and schools**
 - **State Department of Education**
 - **Other state agencies Services.**
 - **Created Measurable Metrics for cost**
 - **Per Meg**
 - **Per Student**

Questions?
