IETA Legislative Presentation
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Definitions and Clarifications

▶ Broadband – Internet service to schools.

▶ Local Education Agency (LEA) – School Districts and Charter Schools

▶ E-Rate – Federal program that reimburses LEAs for their broadband costs based on their Free and Reduced lunch percentage.

▶ High School Broadband Program (HSBP) – FY 15 and FY 16 program the SDE in administering to reimburse schools for their broadband.

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Definitions and Clarifications (continued)

- Managed Service or Network – Typically a network owned, controlled, monitored and maintained by a third party. With the IEN it was a private network.

- Network – When using the term network to describe the IEN or any future system school technology staff typically mean a managed service (network) connecting all schools on a private broadband network.

- Program – The replacement for the IEN

- State FY15 - 07/01/2014 – 06/30/2015

- E-Rate FY15 – 07/01/2015 – 06/30/2016

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2015 Timeline

▶ February 11th, 2015 – Judge Owen confirmed his ruling that the Idaho Education Network (IEN) contracts were void.

▶ February 18th, 2015 – The State Department of Education (SDE) started preparing districts for the possibility they would have to procure their own broadband services.

▶ February 25th, 2015 – House Bill 168 was signed into law. The bill transferred $3,640,500 from the Department of Administration to the SDE for distribute to schools to replace their IEN broadband service.

▶ February 25th, 2015 – Schools begin putting out Requests for Proposals (RFPs) and procuring their own broadband services.

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2015 Timeline (continued)

▶ March 10th, 2015 – All districts had procured their own broadband service to finish the fiscal year, and submitted their request for reimbursement to the SDE.

▶ April 01st, 2015 – House Bill 263 is singed into law authorizing the SDE to use any savings from House Bill 168 to reimburse districts that purchased additional services off of the now voided state contract and lost their E-Rate funding.

▶ April 10th, 2015 – Senate Bill 1171 appropriates $6,300,000 to the SDE to reimburse schools for the non-E-Rate portion of their FY 2016 broadband.

▶ April 16th, 2015 – Form 471 E-Rate Filing Deadline

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FY 15 Program

▶ District had to procure their own broadband service.

▶ Services were not eligible for E-Rate. The deadline had already passed for the current year.

▶ Districts had two weeks to secure their services.

▶ Most districts had their new service installed within the two week time period.

▶ The SDE reimbursed districts for one-time costs (hardware and installation fees) and the monthly costs for their new service.

▶ Districts had to submit for reimbursement.

▶ Districts with similar costs and broadband speed, and districts that were able to purchase increased speed at a lower cost were reimbursed.

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FY 15 Program (continued)

▶ Districts with incorrect paperwork, ineligible service requests, increased costs, greatly increased speeds, or unusual costs were reviewed.

▶ 36 out of the 129 LEAs were reviewed.

▶ The review committee was comprised of one small school technology director, one large school technology director, and the Idaho Digital Learning Academy technology director.

▶ No students were reported to have lost online classes, or would fail to graduate due to the loss of internet.

▶ District that lost their E-Rate for additional services purchased off of the voided state contract were reimbursed for their lost E-Rate costs.

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FY 2015 Finical Summary

▶ Funds Returned from the Department of Administration - $5,052,000

▶ Total Appropriation to SDE (H168 and H263) - $3,640,500

  ▶ LEA Disbursement - $3,390,500

  ▶ SDE Support - $250,000

▶ Total Cost - $2,265,813.37

  ▶ LEA Disbursement - $1,866,364.64

  ▶ SDE Support - $68.55

  ▶ LEA E-Rate Replacement - $399,380.18

▶ Funds Remaining - $1,374, 686

▶ Total State Savings - $2,786,186

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FY 16 Program

- ► SDE Appropriation - $6,300,000

- ► Reimbursement for the non-E-Rate portion of the IEN replacement broadband.

- ► For equivalent service to the services purchased on March 26, 2015.

- ► District are currently submitting costs to the SDE.

- ► Review of the Costs will happen at the end of July.

- ► Chris Campbell (SDE Chief Technology Officer) is overseeing the program.

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Complexity of School Networks

▶ School Networks use the same infrastructure and end-user technologies as large corporations.

▶ Schools use many programs that are unique to education.

▶ School Networks are often larger and more complex than corporate networks with multiple sites to maintain.

▶ Schools are operating with significantly fewer staff and significantly smaller budgets than most corporations.

▶ Many school districts do not have full-time technology staff. Some do not have any technology staff.

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Complexity of School Networks (continued)

- Idaho's Largest Employers (Department of Labor, 2014)
  - St. Luke's – 11,700
  - Wal-Mart – 6,800
  - Micron – 5,700
- Idaho's Largest School Districts – Students and Staff (SDE and NCES)
  - West Ada – Students 36,513, Staff 3,450
  - Boise – 25,912, Staff 2,800
  - Nampa – 14,892, Staff 1,387

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Future Issues

- The Internet is becoming a utility as vital to education as power and water.

- The Internet is used to deliver classes, provide access to books, provide access to research, and deliver business softwares.

- The State Educational Technology Directors Association (SETDA) and FCC's school broadband recommendations.
  - 2014 – 0.1 Mbps per student
  - 2017 – 1 Mbps per student

- Aging equipment of the local broadband providers.

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Future Issues (continued)

- Increasing Costs
- Availability of Broadband
- Appropriate Service
- Competitive Bids
- Lack of technical staff, time, and/or resources at the local level.
- Complexity of E-Rate

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IETA Proposal Overview

- The IETA recommends continuing the current reimbursement plan for FY 17 due to time constraints.

- The IETA has developed a proposal for FY 18 and beyond.

- Summary of the Proposal:
  - Broadband is vital to modern education.
  - Broadband should be for K-12.
  - Broadband access should be equitable.
  - The program should be optional.

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IETA Proposal Overview (continued)

- The program should provide LEAs with the level service desired.
  - The program should provide funding, competitive bidding, E-Rate support, and technical support if requested.
- The program should be removed from politics.
- The program should be transparent.
- The program should create a synergy that allows private broadband providers to support broadband development everywhere in the State, and support broadband for entire communities.
- Detailed proposal available for presentation.

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