

## Chronology – Educational Funding Group (E-Rate Consultant)

DeKalb County School District and Educational Funding Group (EFG) have maintained a steady and trusted partnership since 2014. During that time, the District has been served by a consistent core team including the company's President, E-rate Attorney and Compliance Officer, and dedicated DCSD Account Manager. Due to this long history, EFG has a special understanding of DeKalb's unique needs and has developed a deep working relationship with the District's personnel.

EFG's primary function is to guide DCSD successfully through the myriad of rules and regulations of the federal E-rate program. This program provides funding for critical technology needs, such as the District's WAN infrastructure, internet access and equipment needed to provide broadband across the DeKalb County Schools. EFG provides the following services to the District:

- **Technology Review:** Reviews District's existing technology needs relative to E-Rate eligible services to maximize District's E-rate funding opportunities;
- **Form Preparation:** EFG prepares and processes all necessary E-rate applications and forms on behalf of District (which are submitted to the District for approval prior to being filed);
- **Competitive Bidding:** EFG guides the District through the E-rate competitive bidding processes, which is done in collaboration with DCSD's procurement procedures. It also works with the District to review E-rate service provider proposals and help determine the most cost-effective eligible services that best suit the District's needs
- **Participation in USAC Review Processes:** EFG prepares written responses to higher level USAC reviews, such as USAC Program Integrity Assurance (PIA), Cost-effectiveness, Payment Quality Assurance (PQA) and Selective Service (SSR) Reviews, and other audits related to, or arising from, work done by EFG.
- **Post Commitment Actions:** EFG prepares and submits post-commitment changes and corrections, such as Service Substitutions, SPIN changes, Service Certifications, and Appeals and Requests for Waivers to USAC and/or the FCC. EFG also reviews vendor invoices for E-rate accuracy prior to invoicing for reimbursement.
- **Document Retention:** EFG retains copies of all documents associated with the funding years contracted by the District for the time period necessary to remain in compliance with FCC rules, which is currently ten (10) years from the last date of service.
- **E-rate Compliance and Legal Matters:** As necessary, EFG apprises the District of the FCC's and USAC's E-rate rules and regulations.
- **Ancillary Services:** EFG also tracks the District's Category 2 budgets; Evaluates NSLP/CEP data, as necessary; and reconciles all E-rate reimbursements.

Over the past ten years EFG’s guidance has resulted in DCSD acquiring funding awards of more than 30 million dollars from the E-rate program:

<b>Funding Year</b>	<b>Current Reimbursements</b>	<b>Pending Reimbursements</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<b>2014</b>	\$1,314,858.77	N/A	N/A
<b>2015</b>	\$9,847,654.00	N/A	Large Equipment Projects; First Year of Voice Services Reduction
<b>2016</b>	\$765,278.44	N/A	Second Year of Voice Services Reduction
<b>2017</b>	\$395,072.26	N/A	Final Year of Voice Services Reduction
<b>2018</b>	\$365,119.15	N/A	No Voice Services
<b>2019</b>	\$192,084.47	Approx. \$1,000,000.00	Fiber & Equipment Projects Pending Reimbursement
<b>2020</b>	\$121,029.30	Approx. \$3,600,000.00	Equipment Projects Pending Completion
<b>2021</b>	\$176,169.70	Approx. \$5,300,000.00	Equipment Projects Pending Completion
<b>2022</b>	\$441,335.88	Approx. \$90,000.00	Fiber Services Pending Reimbursement
<b>2023</b>	All Pending	Approx. \$9,000,000.00	Equipment Projects
<b>2024</b>	All Pending	Approx. \$200,000.00	N/A

<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$13,618,601.97</b>	<b>Approx. \$20,000,000.00</b>
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DCSD has received a total of approximately \$13.6 million in disbursements from the E-rate program between 2014 and 2022. An additional, approximately \$20 remains to be disbursed – either pending project completion (most funding disbursement is awaiting project completion from Funding Years 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023) or is in the BEAR reimbursement process. Many of the outstanding projects from 2020-2023 are connected and were delayed for reasons beyond the District’s, vendors’ and EFG’s control (mostly pandemic-era delays that necessitated project restructuring). They are all currently in progress.

The District has also applied for funding in 2024, but award for that funding has not yet been issued.

Continued close collaboration between Educational Funding Group and DeKalb County School District has ensured that the District has received the maximum benefit from the E-rate program and allowed the District to build further upon their networks and infrastructure. EFG looks forward to continuing its successful partnership with DCSD and bringing more E-rate program funding to the District in future years.