

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

The primary function of the Educational Funding Group (EFG) 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.

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.

**Financial Impact:**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Cost</b>
2022	\$70,000
2023	\$70,000
2024	\$75,000
2025	\$80,000 <i>requested</i>