

## Chronology- ERATE Category 2

The Division of Information and Instructional Technology (DIIT) continues to upgrade the district's network infrastructure to support instruction, digital learning, and increasing wired and wireless device utilization across schools. To minimize cost to the district, DIIT aligned these investments with federal E-Rate Category 2 funding, which reimburses a significant portion of eligible internal connections, basic maintenance, and managed services.

DIIT initiated a districtwide evaluation of switching capacity, cabling requirements, firewall lifecycle status, and instructional technology expansion. This effort examined whether current infrastructure could continue supporting growing digital learning demands.

Quantitative data—including service tickets, wireless performance analytics, and bandwidth utilization—was analyzed to determine the most urgent networking priorities. The findings confirmed the need to expand wired connectivity, add classroom data drops, and maintain secure firewall operations.

### Key Partners & Services:

#### CDWG- Cost \$961,065.68 (District Cost \$179,895.30)

##### Switches & Related Network Hardware

- Access-level switches
- Network transceivers and related switching components
- Required accessories to support switch deployment

#### ICN - Cost \$219,917.00 (District Cost \$34,636.55)

##### Internal Connections & Cabling

- Structured cabling materials
- Network jacks and terminations
- Patch panels and related cabling hardware
- Installation of new data drops
- Testing and certification of cabling

#### STEPCG- Cost \$579,493.08 (District Cost \$299,110.31)

##### Firewall Licenses, Managed Services & Maintenance

- Firewall software licenses (renewal and activation for main firewalls)
- Managed firewall services (configuration, monitoring, patching, security updates)
- Managed gateway services for Aruba wireless gateways and critical switches
- Break/fix support funds (to be used only if needed)
- Hourly maintenance bank (to be used only if needed)

DIIT aligned these needs with allowable services under E-Rate Category 2 and determined the appropriate reimbursement structure. The analysis categorized components as fully eligible, partially eligible, or ineligible under federal rules:

<b>Project &amp; Vendor</b>	<b>Services: Fully E-Rate Eligible</b>	<b>Services: Partially E-Rate Eligible</b>	<b>Services: Not E-Rate Eligible</b>
Switches & Related Network Hardware <b>(CDW-G)</b>	Access-level switches and related components	Some switch licenses	N/A
Internal Connections & Cabling <b>(ICN)</b>	Structured cabling / data drops	N/A	N/A
Firewall Licenses, Managed Services & Maintenance <b>(StepCG)</b>	Hourly maintenance bank (\$37,500)  Break/fix funds (\$25,000)  Managed Services for Firewalls and Wireless Gateways	Firewall licenses	Network design documentation / engineering beyond device configuration  Cybersecurity hardening activities outside the scope of E-Rate's definition of basic network maintenance

The district cost below reflects the cost of partially eligible and ineligible services that are still required for reliable and secure network operations but do not qualify for federal reimbursement under program rules. This work will improve classroom connectivity, support digital learning growth across schools, and sustain secure network operations for students and staff.

### **Financial Impact:**

<b>Project</b>	<b>Total Cost</b> <i>(without E-rate discount)</i>	<b>District Cost</b> <i>(with up to 85% E-rate discount)</i>	<b>Total Savings</b>
Switches & Related Network Hardware <b>(CDW-G)</b>	\$961,065.68	\$179,895.30	\$781,170.38
Internal Connections & Cabling <b>(ICN)</b>	\$219,917.00	\$34,636.55	\$185,280.45
Firewall Licenses, Managed Services & Maintenance <b>(StepCG)</b>	\$579,493.08	\$299,110.31	\$280,382.77
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,760,475.76</b>	<b>\$513,642.16</b>	<b>\$1,246,833.60</b>