



**Education**  
SUPERHIGHWAY

Montana School Broadband Project  
Connecting your students to high-speed broadband

September 26, 2017



# Today's Presenters



**Coree Kelly**  
Network Consultant  
EducationSuperHighway  
*Former Technology Director at Sheridan Public Schools, WY*

*coree@educationsuperhighway.org*



**Alyssa Cubello**  
Associate Marketing Manager  
EducationSuperHighway

[alyssa@educationsuperhighway.org](mailto:alyssa@educationsuperhighway.org)



**Erin Lipkind**  
Missoula County Schools  
Superintendent

# Agenda

- **NEW: Fund your schools' upgrades this E-rate cycle** with HB 390 & Broadband for Montana Schools
- **Woodman School Project**– a word from Erin Lipkind
- **Connect your schools** to the Montana School Broadband Project



## Our mission

Upgrade the Internet access in every public school classroom in America so that all students can take advantage of the promise of digital learning.

# HB 390 and Broadband for Montana Schools

## *What you need to know*

- The State of Montana is investing in broadband for your students:
  - **\$2M in state matching funds** for your schools available
  - **\$250,000 is available for E-rate** consulting to assist your schools as they apply for funding this year
- Funding only exists this **year and next year**
- Funding available for connecting your school to fiber and the connections within your school

# Woodman School

## District Profile

- ▶ Rural district in Lolo Valley
- ▶ 1 school serving about 40 students



# Woodman School

## Reasons to upgrade

- ▶ 10 computers in computer lab, 8 additional Chromebooks to engage students in technology at all grade levels – not all can be online at the same time.
- ▶ Montana Digital Academy is available to introduce middle school students to foreign languages – however, students must take turns logging on to the site.
- ▶ Exams must be taken from another school 30 minutes out of the valley – making a 30 minute exam a 90 minute process.

**Our goal:** Upgrade our Internet access at an affordable price to allow all students the opportunity to take advantage of technology in the classroom.

# Woodman School

## Solution

- ▶ Work continues to ensure that the infrastructure is built for the students and schools.
- ▶ “Woodman Elementary School has devoted countless hours and dollars to solving our connectivity issues, including maximizing our internal capabilities with little impact on upload and download speeds. I am excited for the academic opportunities broadband will offer our students.”

*Erin Lipkind – Missoula County Superintendent of Schools*



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“Providing our students with access to high-quality digital learning helps set students up for success in our increasingly digital world. As a predominantly rural state, we need to work even harder to make sure that our students have the high-speed Internet that they need to flourish. Our investments in school broadband this year is the result of collaboration between state government, the service provider and school communities, and will bring us even closer to closing the connectivity gap in our state's schools.”

Governor Steve Bullock



# Montana School Broadband Project Year Three Update

**Continued partnership between Governor Steve Bullock's Office, Department of Commerce, Office of Public Instruction, SAM, and EducationSuperHighway.**

## Progress:

- **94%** of school districts representing 96,588 students meet the minimum connectivity goal of 100 kbps per student.
- **75%** of schools have the **fiber connections** they need to keep up with growing bandwidth demand from students and teachers.
- **\$9.7M** of E-rate funding is left to support Wi-Fi network upgrades.



# Our partnership



**Early Fall**



**Late Fall**



**Winter**



**Winter/Spring**

Understand Your Needs	Research Your Options	Develop Your Upgrade Strategy	Bid & Purchasing Support
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kick-off our work together by understanding your current and future network infrastructure needs</li> <li>• Introduce you to your available E-rate funding and guide you through the upgrade process</li> <li>• Connect school district to E-rate consultant funding opportunity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work on your behalf to find upgrade options by engaging directly with the provider community</li> <li>• Provide you with ongoing information relevant to your upgrade through webinars and calls</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with you on developing your upgrade strategy by providing custom bandwidth and cost recommendations</li> <li>• Help you build a business case, leveraging E-rate funding, to convince district leadership to upgrade</li> <li>• Give you provider negotiation tips</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide you with 470/RFP templates and guidance</li> <li>• Ensure service providers are aware of the upgrade opportunity</li> <li>• Provide you with vendor-neutral analysis to help you select the best vendor for your upgrade</li> </ul>

## Next Steps

- Find out which schools can utilize these funds - 76 in total.
- Connect your school leader to EducationSuperHighway & Department of Commerce:



Elle Patterson  
District Consultant  
EducationSuperHighway  
Elle@educationsuperhighway.org



Jennifer Olson  
Community Development Program  
Administrator  
Montana Department of Commerce  
DOCBroadband@mt.gov  
(406) 841-2770



Coree Kelly  
Network Consultant  
EducationSuperHighway  
Coree@educationsuperhighway.org

# School districts that can take advantage of the Montana School Broadband Project:

## **Beaverhead:**

- Grant School District
- Lima School District
- Jackson Elem
- Polaris School District
- Wise River School District
- Wisdom School District

## **Carbon:**

- Bridger School District
- Fromberg School District
- Roberts K-12 School District

## **Carter:**

- Hawks Home School District
- Alzada Elementary School District

## **Cascade:**

- Vaughn School District
- Ulm School District

## **Chouteau:**

- Carter Elementary
- Benton Lake Elementary

## **Custer:**

- Kircher School District
- S Y School District 83
- Trail Creek School District 13

## **Dawson:**

- Bloomfield School District
- Deer Creek School District

# School districts that can take advantage of the Montana School Broadband Project:

## **Flathead:**

- Smith Valley School District
- Deer Park School District
- Fair-Mont-Egan School District
- Olney-Bissell School District

## **Gallatin:**

- Anderson Elementary
- Manhattan School District
- Willow Creek School District
- Malmborg Elem School
- Pass Creek Elem
- Cottonwood School District

## **Garfield:**

- Kester School District
- Sand Springs School District
- Ross School District

## **Glacier:**

- Mountain View Elem

## **Granite:**

- Hall School District

## **Hill:**

- Davey School District

## **Jefferson:**

- Clancy School District
- Boulder School District
- Basin Elementary

## **Lake:**

- Valley View School District
- Upper West Shore

# School districts that can take advantage of the Montana School Broadband Project:

## **Lewis And Clark:**

- Auchard Creek Elem
- Lincoln School District
- Wolf Creek School District
- Trinity Elementary

## **Lincoln:**

- Fortine School District
- McCormick School District

## **McCone:**

- Vida School District

## **Park:**

- Arrowhead Elementary
- Livingston Public Schools
- Pine Creek School District
- Springdale School District

## **Pondera:**

- Miami School District 31
- Dupuyer School District
- Knees School District 59

## **Ravalli:**

- Victor School District 7
- Lone Rock School District

## **Rosebud:**

- Rosebud School District 12

## **Sanders:**

- Thompson Falls School District

## **Silver Bow:**

- Melrose School District 5
- Divide School District 4

# School districts that can take advantage of the Montana School Broadband Project:

## **Stillwater:**

- Columbus School District 6
- Nye Elementary

## **Sweet Grass:**

- Grey Cliff Elementary
- Melville School District
- McLeod School District

## **Teton:**

- Pendroy School District 61

## **Treasure:**

- Hysham School District 7 & 1

## **Yellowstone:**

- Blue Creek School District
- Canyon Creek School District
- Elysian School District
- Shepherd School District
- Pioneer School District
- Morin School District
- Molt School District