



## 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY LEARNING

### BROADBAND EXPANSION – TECHNOLOGY SUPERHIGHWAY

#### Support the ISBE Budget Request

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) provides federal match funding through states for schools to expand broadband availability through its E-rate program. The FCC currently has supplemental funds available through the program for construction projects. These funds are in addition to the normal 70% E-rate program. The additional funds are subject to state dollar-for-dollar matching requirements and will be available in FY2018 and FY2019.

It is estimated that 215 schools across 120 districts, serving approximately 300,000 students, need fiber upgrades. The federal funds would provide up to 10% reimbursement of the cost of eligible broadband special construction projects. The expansion of broadband to schools statewide is supported by a partnership with the Office of the Governor, Illinois Department of Innovation and Technology, and EducationSuperHighway. The Office of the Governor supports an investment of \$13 million for District Broadband Expansion over the two-year period for which federal matching funds are available.

The State Board of Education has included in its budget request a \$5 million appropriation to provide matching funds for an additional \$5 million of federal funds to support broadband expansion special construction costs in FY2018.

## Need More Information? Contact the Alliance Lobbying Team!



The Illinois Statewide School Management Alliance is the combined advocacy efforts of the four statewide school management organizations: the Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB); the Illinois Association of School Administrators (IASA); the Illinois Principals' Association (IPA); and the Illinois Association of School Business Officials (IASBO). With the resources of the four organizations, there are eight full-time legislative specialists that work in the Capitol on each session day and directly lobby the legislature on behalf of Illinois' public schools

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