



SETDA and [Common Sense Kids Action](#)'s report, [State K-12 Broadband Leadership: Driving Connectivity and Access](#) highlights the powerful impact of state leadership in driving critical policy decisions at the national and state level to support broadband networks, bandwidth capacity and home access for low-income families. Below are examples where states are providing leadership to help ensure equity of access for all students.

### **State Leadership for Infrastructure Examples**

- **New Jersey Statewide Purchasing Consortia Shows Significant Cost Savings:** Launched in 2014, The Broadband Component of Digital Readiness for Learning and Assessment Project (DRLAP) created regional purchasing consortia for telecommunications services to help schools collaborate in order to bring down the cost of high speed broadband services; offer basic Internet service (up to 100 Mbps) and high speed (over 100 Mbps); and establish a statewide Wide Area Network (WAN) through regional consortia for Internet services as well as for other services. The first year resulted in \$89 million in savings for participating schools while increasing bandwidth by 150%. New Jersey continues to provide support for the initiative, which is now in its second year.
- **Alabama Leverages State Funds for E-rate Match:** E-Rate has always been a primary focus of the Alabama Joint IT Purchasing (ALJP) program. The Governor, state legislature and other state education technology stakeholders are working to pass a bill that would leverage E-rate discounts by providing funding that prioritizes matching funds for E-rate, Wi-Fi and

wireless local area networks. In 2016, the Governor's budget includes funding to cover the state match for the FCC 's special construction matching program. In order to provide for broadband connectivity within schools, the Governor's budget also includes funding to cover much of the required remaining match for Category 2 - WLAN equipment and services for all schools across the state.

- **New Mexico's Governor's Broadband for Education Initiative:** This program has applied lessons learned from North Carolina and Alabama to aggregate buying power for Category 2 (Wi-Fi and networking equipment). The statewide master contract, which can be accessed by all school districts and libraries E-Rate applications in the state, has already resulted in greater discounts than previous statewide contracts. Alabama has offered it's "Mini-Quote" system to New Mexico, which functions like "e-bay in reverse" as vendors compete with transparency on price in response to district requests against this contract. It is estimated that this approach will save schools \$3M in this E-Rate cycle. In addition, the New Mexico Public Education Department, Department of Information Technology and Public Schools Facilities Authority are coordinating with other non-profits to leverage the new funding opportunities presented by E-Rate Modernization.
- **Oregon Looks to the Future to Provide Robust Access to All Schools:** Oregon is in the early stages of coordinating across state agencies to provide robust high-speed broadband access to all schools. Oregon is working with Education Superhighway to collect data to determine where each district stands in terms of access to high-speed broadband, level of service and cost. The Oregon Broadband Advisory Council is using this data along with information around networks that serve fire and safety, tele-health, and emergency management services for a conversation about building a network or system that meets the needs of all state agencies and the local communities. In 2015, the Oregon Department of Administrative Services coordinated a Request for Information (RFI) to identify options for broadband services to support 1,200 state agency office locations across Oregon and included a secondary option for vendors to demonstrate how they might also support over 2,000 schools across the state with high speed Internet and broadband services.