Idaho State

E-rate Briefing

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FUNDS FOR LEARNING®
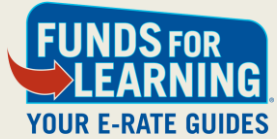**YOUR E-RATE GUIDES**

Why Does E-rate Funding Matter So Much?

- Internet access is mission critical to education, and…

- It requires enterprise-grade networks (i.e. not inexpensive)

- E-rate helps meet the need for faster Internet access
  › Largest single source of EdTech funding in US for K-12 schools
  › Public, private, charter schools; (nearly all participate)
  › Public libraries also qualify

- Offers discounts of 20%-90% on eligible goods and services

- Annual program cap: ≈ $3.9 billion (inflation adjusted)

E-rate Funding: High Stakes Opportunity

- Stringent bidding rules and procedures

- Many deadlines and forms to complete

- Recent reform creates new learning curves

- Lengthy timelines to receive funding and keep paperwork
  - › Projects are delayed pending funding award
  - › Payments may be denied or delayed
  - › Record-keeping stretches over 10+ years

- Failures result in repayment, fines, and/or incarceration
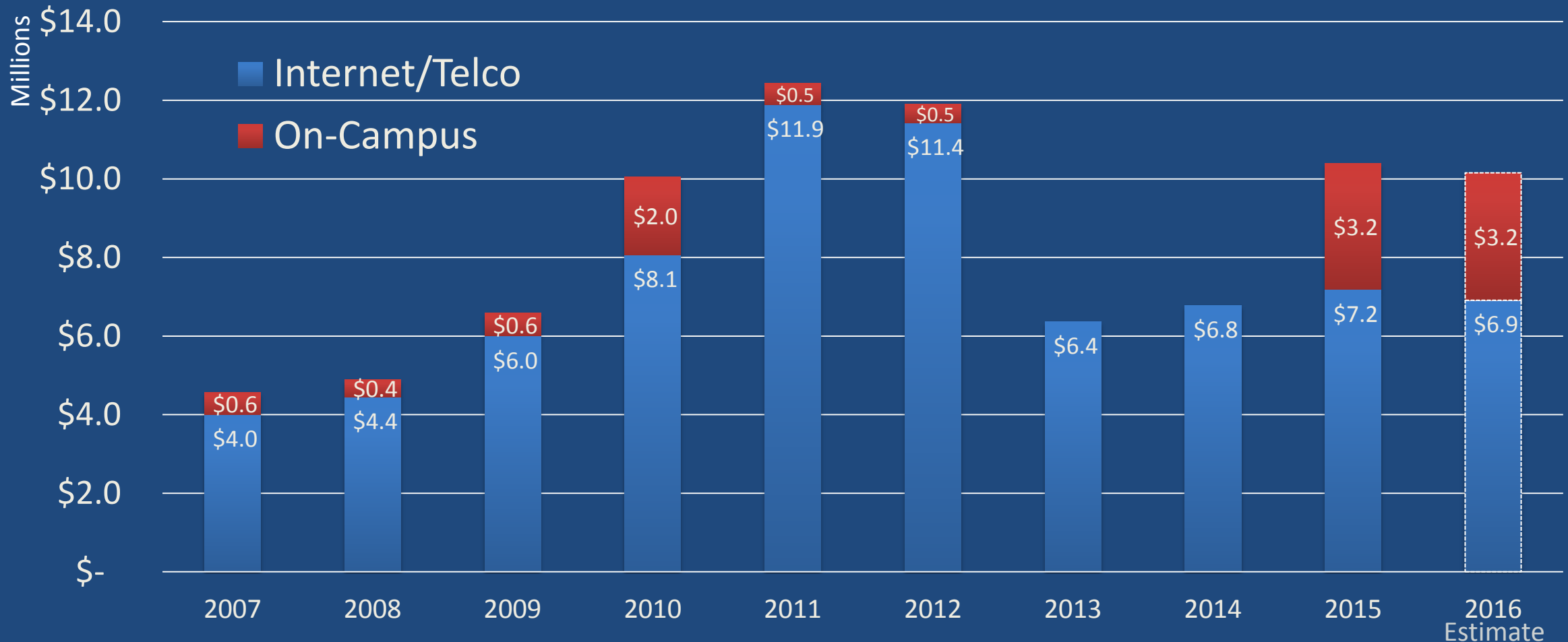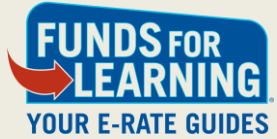
About Funds For Learning

- Focused exclusively on E-rate compliance

- Experience preparing $1.6+ billion requests

- Nationwide client base since 1997

- Developer of E-rate Manager® system

- FFL clients represent 6+ million students; 12,000 sites

- Statewide support for AL, AR, DC, OK, and VI

Two Categories of Discounts

- TO CAMPUS: Category 1 (20% - 90%)
  - › Telecommunications data services
  - › Voice services (but being phased out)
  - › Internet access
- ON CAMPUS: Category 2 (20% - 85%)
  - › Internal connections (and maintenance)
  - › Managed internal broadband service ("managed Wi-Fi")
  - › Subject to 5-year funding cap per site

Idaho Receives $35 E-rate per Student (FY2015)

Map of western United States showing E-rate per student values by state:

- WASHINGTON: $36.24
- OREGON: $33.66
- IDAHO: $35.00
- MONTANA: $38.47
- NORTH DAKOTA: $38.06
- MINNESOTA: $44.18
- SOUTH DAKOTA: $47.44
- WYOMING: $46.53
- IOWA: $36.00
- NEBRASKA: $46.54
- NEVADA: $14.53
- UTAH: $36.10
- COLORADO: $25.28
- KANSAS: $46.76
- MISSOURI: $54.12
- CALIFORNIA: $45.57
- ARIZONA: $55.98
- NEW MEXICO: $64.80
- OKLAHOMA: $92.02
- ARKANSAS: $62.31
- (Texas area): $44.67

Per Student

- National average = $48
- Regional average = $34
  (ID, MT, WY, UT, NV, OR, WA)

Discount Rate

- State Average = 74%
- Nat'l Average = 73%

School District Snapshot: Couer d'Alene

… our students are on devices such as iPads or Chromebooks everyday…

… require consistent internet access to complete individualized lessons and check ins.

School District Snapshot: Couer d'Alene

Increases in state funding for technology, along with E-Rate funding, have:

- *allowed us to develop and maintain tech infrastructure demanded today*

- *helped our tech budget go further*

- *increased bandwidth up to 10X*

- *created sustainable replacement cycles*

E-rate 2017 Fast Facts

- Discounts available for purchased fiber optic WANs

- Reduced support for telephone services (discount minus 60%)

- E-rate Portal "EPC" Creates Challenges
  › Complicates and slows down process
  › Delays funding commitments

- Process getting harder
  › Nationwide: 60% of applicant use consultants
  › Idaho: 23% of applicants use consultants

How Do States Support Applicants?

- Single statewide application
  - › Opportunity: Decreased admin burden for schools (*maybe*)
  - › Danger: All-or-nothing; Challenge: One size rarely fits all
- 5% match for fiber optic wide area network buildouts
- State master contracts that are E-rate competitively bid
- Additional resources for training, listservs and helpdesks