



Caswell County Schools

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Press Release:

Caswell County Schools has received funding approval for its e-Rate Wide Area Network (WAN) application. This application addresses the construction; installation and operation of an upgraded WAN in our school district using a Dark Fiber optic infrastructure connecting all our six schools and administrative buildings, proposed by our current WAN provider, CONTERRA. We are the first district in the state of North Carolina to receive funding for this type of project, and one of the first ones in the nation.

This new WAN upgrade is paramount for our schools' capabilities to be able to provide staff and students with the necessary resources, curricula, media, tools, and other applications on a regular basis. Not only is it critical to instruction, collaboration, communication, and skill attainment but also to administering appropriate local, state and federal assessments. In addition, our administrative and financial frameworks rely 100 percent on our network infrastructure on a daily basis.

Our rural, low-wealth school district primarily relies on Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) E-Rate funding to maintain an up-to-date network infrastructure. This funding provides the resources for the equipment and bandwidth that allows a reliable connectivity and the required capacity to bring these tools and resources down to the classroom level. It is very gratifying to know USAC understands this and we are very grateful for their continuous and timely funding support.

The total requested amount was \$902,488.94 and this was approved entirely by USAC on January 9, 2017.

This is the result of a great effort and diligent work of the team formed by Brian Davidson, E-rate consultant (Clarity Solutions), the CONTERRA staff and David Useche, Caswell County Schools Chief Technology Officer.