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The latest edtech news curated by SchoolCIO editor Ellen Ullman.

3 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT E-RATE IN 2016

By Cathy Cruzan, president of Funds For Learning

Fresh on the heels of a major regulatory reform, including an annual funding cap increase to \$3.9 billion, the E-Rate program is better suited than ever to provide the nation's schools and public libraries with critical connectivity and infrastructure services.

1. 1:1 support continues to grow.

Nearly half of all applicants* have a 1:1 or BYOD initiative to support end-user devices. In 2016, this is expected to continue to be a major driver of demand for bandwidth and networking equipment.

2. Wi-fi is a deal breaker. Sixty-five

percent of last year's applicants described wi-fi as an absolute requirement. As more schools use wireless technology, having a modern and effective means of delivering instruction is becoming crucial for today's classrooms.

3. Time is a critical component.

Following last year's overhaul of the E-Rate program, applicants said the application process took longer and was more complex than it had been previously. Stakeholders should ensure they leave themselves enough time to thoroughly review their applications.

**Data from Funds For Learning's funding request data and applicant survey.*

THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE UGLY

THE GOOD. A proposed Senate bill in Florida would allow high-school students to take coding for foreign language credit.

THE BAD. This year, Indiana switched from CTB/McGraw Hill to Pearson for the ISTEP+ (Indiana Statewide Testing for Educational Progress Plus). However, during a test run in January, several districts dealt with frozen screens and error messages; one superintendent said the interruptions were so disruptive that his students might use paper and pencil instead.

THE UGLY. A high-school wrestling coach in the Kiel (WI) Area School District faces possible charges for sexting with a student.