

# Arkansas Public School Computer Network

## Southern Legislative Conference

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### July 31, 2017

Dr. Eric Saunders  
Assistant Commissioner  
Research and Technology







Mount Everest  
8850 m



ZONE

7900 m

4

3 7300 m

6400 m

2

5920 m

1

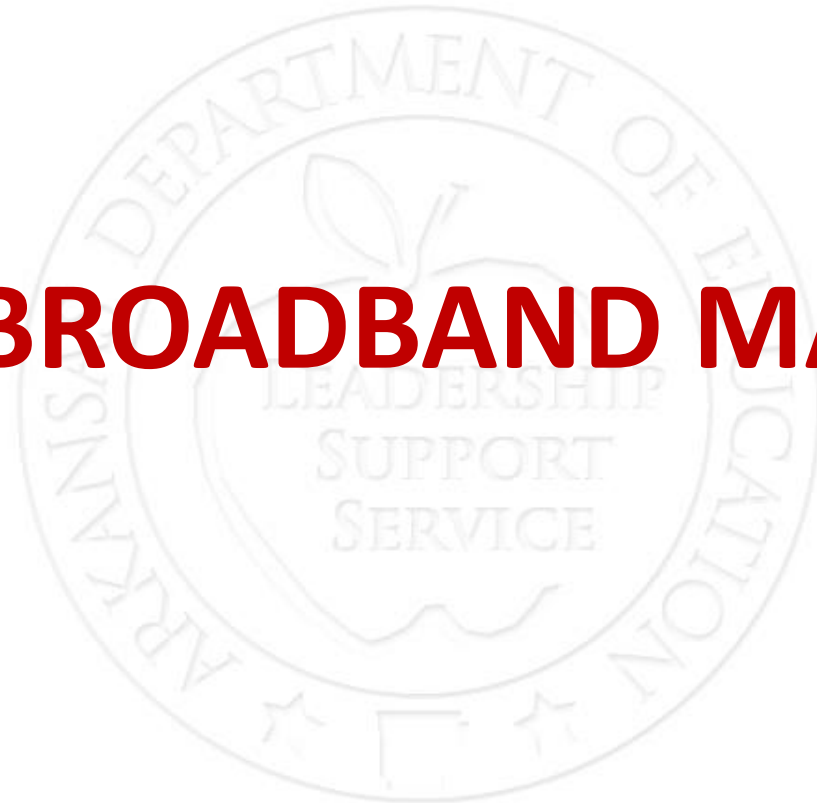






# Arkansas Public School Computer Network

## WHY BROADBAND MATTERS



# Arkansas Public School Computer Network

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“Computers give students an unfair advantage. Therefore, students who used computers to analyze data or create displays will be eliminated from the science fair.”

From a science fair judge in Apple Classroom of Tomorrow chronicles, 1988

# Arkansas Public School Computer Network

## School Technology

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- Traditional
- Online Only
- Blended
- Flipped Classroom
- One-to-One
- BYOD





# Arkansas Public School Computer Network

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## Arkansas Facts

~ 475,000 students

~1,100 schools

School Technology Expenditures =  
Over \$550,000,000 the last three  
years

**RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY**

Tools and Support for Educators

# Arkansas Public School Computer Network

## Technology in Education

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**Act 1280 of 2013**



# Arkansas Public School Computer Network

## Computer Science

Act 187 of 2015, driven by  
Governor Asa Hutchinson





# Why go state-wide?



Equity



Efficiency

Effectiveness



# Arkansas Public School Computer Network

## Overview

1. Assessment of Current Status
2. Identified the Agencies Involved
3. Bid
4. Roll Out :Began in July 2015 and concluded July 2017



# Arkansas Public School Computer Network

## Overview

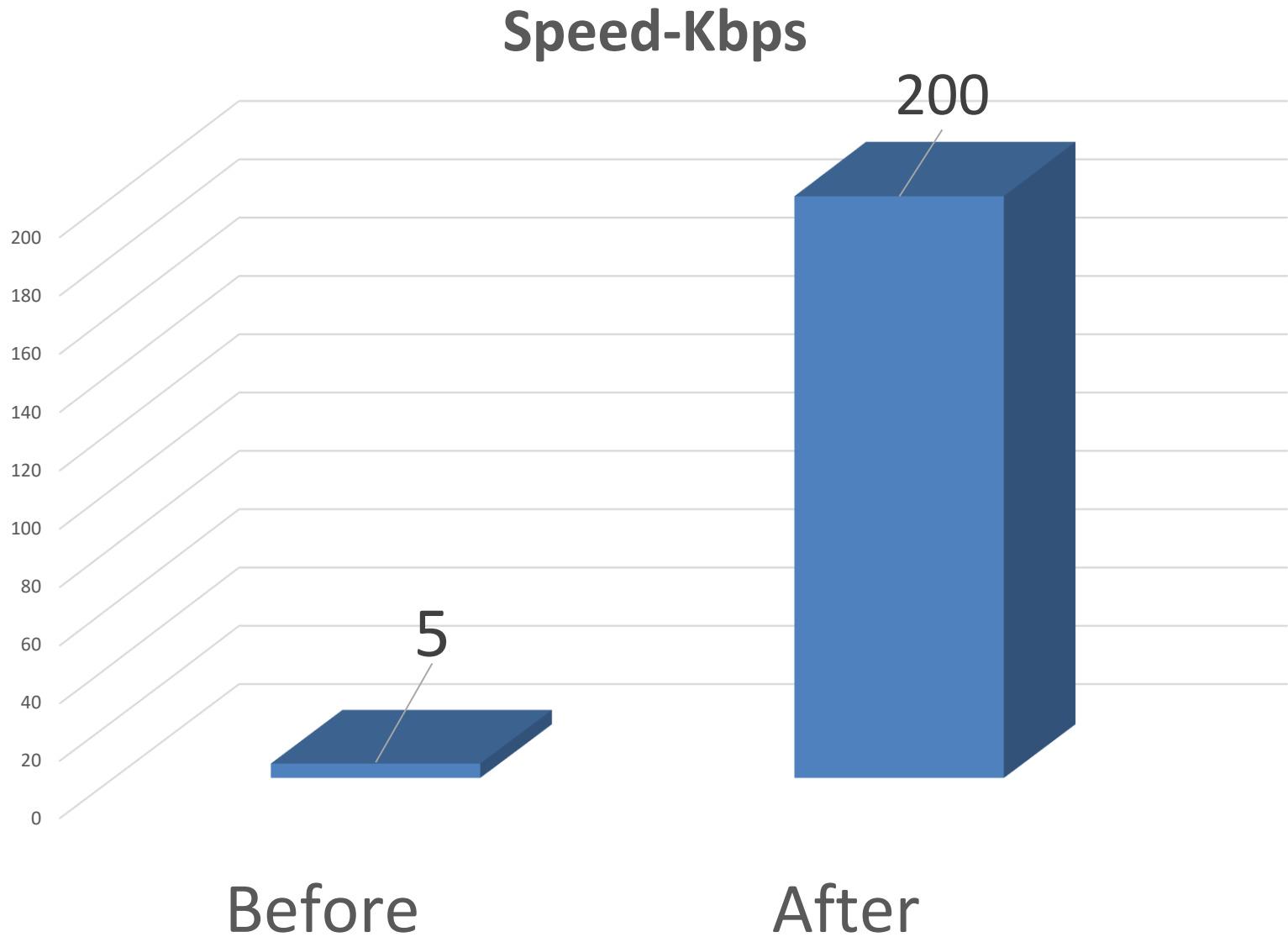
Bid by each connection.

Backbone network distribution points. (Allowed for 22 different providers)

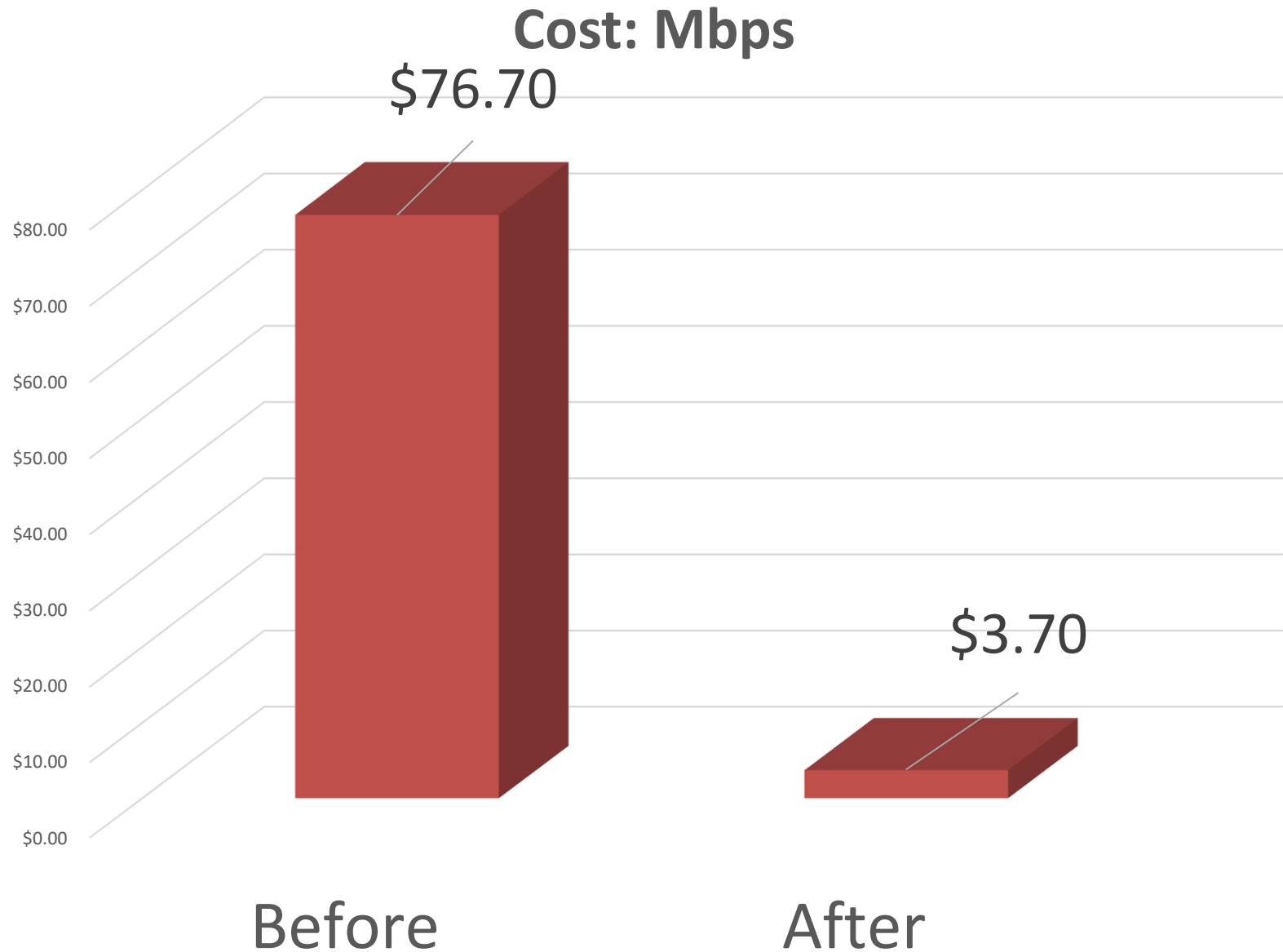




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# Wi-Fi on the Bus

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Average One-Way Commute: 49.4 Minutes

Approximately **49 School Days per Year**

Source: 2013 BLR Report on Student Transportation





# Arkansas Public School Computer Network

LESSONS  
LEARNED



Support from Governor, Legislature and all Agencies

Clear Communications with Schools, Agencies and the  
Public

LAN Support Team

# Decision Points

- Agencies Involved
- Assessment of Current Status
- Bidding Structure:
  - State-wide
  - Region-wide
  - By Location
- School District Responsibilities
- Current Contracts





Hot Springs Middle School

Project:  
**Myoelectric Prosthetic Hand**



EAST<sup>®</sup>initiative

Harrison Junior High School



Project:  
**Co-Pilot**

EAST<sup>®</sup>initiative



# Arkansas Public School Computer Network

**“We need to prepare kids for their future, not our past.” -Daniel Pink**

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**Dr. Eric Saunders**  
**Assistant Commissioner**  
**Research and Technology**

## Contact Information

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The seal of the Arkansas Department of Education is visible in the background. It is a circular emblem with the words "ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION" around the perimeter. In the center, there is a stylized torch and the words "LEADERSHIP", "SUPPORT", and "SERVICE" stacked vertically.