State of Rhode Island
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Shepard Building
255 Westminster Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02903-3400

Angélica Infante-Green
Commissioner

Rhode Island Telecommunications Educational Access Fund
(RITEAF)

These materials are to be given to the Director of Technology or the E-Rate Coordinator.
If neither person is available, then forward to the Business Manager, Principal or Superintendent.

Welcome to the Rhode Island Telecommunications Educational Access Fund. The mailing you are receiving is an invitation to you, from the State of Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, to participate in the Rhode Island Telecommunications Educational Access Fund, also known as RITEAF.

RITEAF is a program that combines subsidies from the E-Rate Program and the State of Rhode Island in order to provide assistance to schools seeking access to the Internet. In this packet, you will find forms and information regarding the RITEAF program and the application process. Please read ALL the information provided in this packet to avoid mistakes and/or delays.

Applications for the RITEAF program are reviewed by the Rhode Island Department of Education. The review verifies the accuracy of your enrollments and level of student need, eligibility according to state RITEAF and E-Rate rules, and the information about your schools. Once your eligibility and need has been established, the state will submit a consortium application to the E-Rate Program in order to secure additional support for the services RIDE will provide to your school. The RITEAF program provided more than $4 million in subsidies for RI's schools and libraries in each of the past several years. As an added benefit, it has created a state network which is one of our longest standing efficiencies.

Participation in the E-Rate program is a requirement of all schools in order to receive technology subsidies from RITEAF. Participation means qualifying your school(s) for the federal E-Rate program.

RETURN BY DEADLINE: LOA, CIPA and BANDWIDTH REQUEST (and ENROLLMENT FORM if NOT part of the NSLP)

Technology Plans must be in place if Bandwidth upgrades are requested. All Public School districts must keep a current plan on their website, regardless of any request for bandwidth increases. Non-public schools and libraries should maintain an up to date technology plan in case of USAC audits. NO technology plans need

Information Form **(Must be returned to RIDE by the deadline.)**

Letter of Agency (LOA) Form **(Must be returned to RIDE by the deadline.)**

Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) Form **(Must be returned to RIDE by the deadline.)**

Bandwidth Upgrade Form and Excel file – All request for an upgrade must be mailed to Karen.cooper@ride.ri.gov **prior to the deadline. Any changes to the status of schools after January 1, 2024 will not be incorporated into RIDE's Form 471.**

Enrollment Form – Only those Schools not participating in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) MUST complete the **Enrollment Form** to provide a count of students with the comparable level of need to the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) utilizing a federal financial aid guideline. For many schools in the Providence Diocese, the calculations are done by the Diocese using a company that re-calculates financial needs based on the most recent federal Income Eligibility Guideline. (IEG).   Others may use the IEG and do the calculations themselves or use companies such as PSAS (Private School Aid Service).