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Educational Technology Monthly Call

March 9, 2023

https://bit.ly/EdTech-Mar2023

Agenda

- Digital Learning Updates
- Cybersecurity
- Emergency Connectivity Fund, E-Rate, and ACP
- Important Reminders and Other Information

Suggested participants
for this call:

- Chief Technology Officers
- Information Technology Staff
- E-Rate Coordinators
- Privacy Coordinators
- Digital or Virtual Learning Staff

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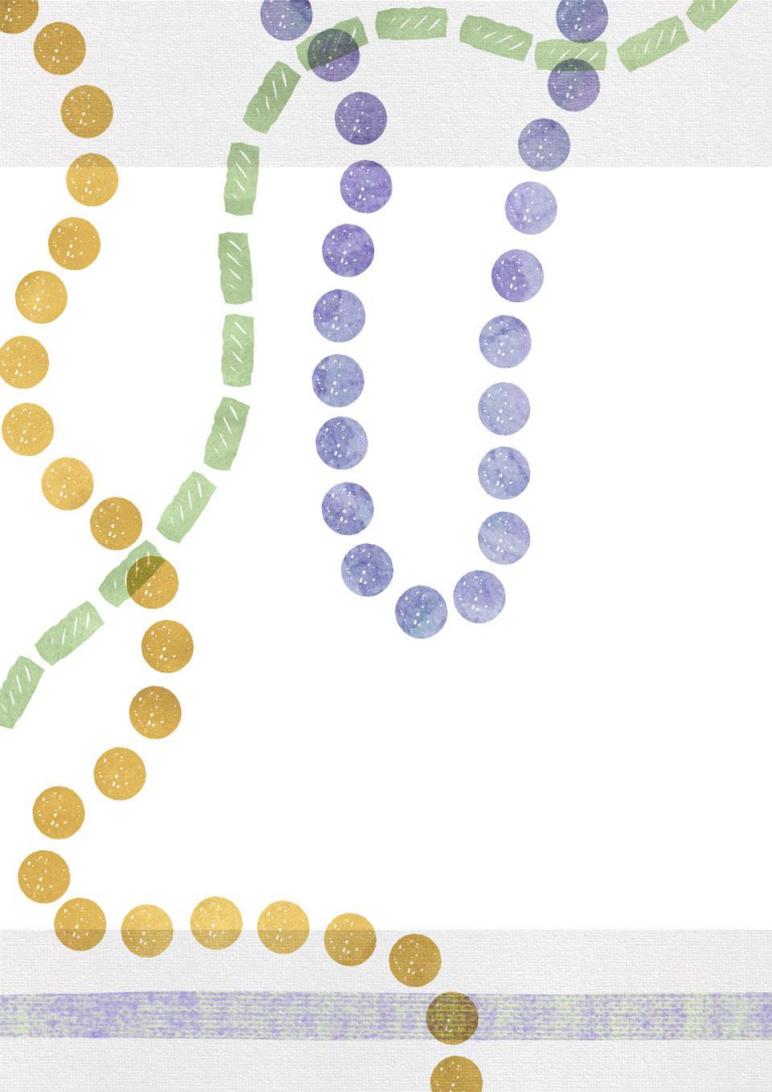
Digital Learning Updates

Reminder: Change in Office Hours

- Moving forward, we will not hold regular office hours.
- We will only hold office hours during major projects and upon request.

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Teacher Leader Summit

- May 30th - June 1st in New Orleans
- We will have a technology track to ensure there are a variety of sessions for tech leaders and educators.
  - Including:
    - Subject specific tech integration
    - Cyber.org training for both K-8 and 9-12 (including hands on labs in the Cyber Range)
    - Session designed for technology leaders
- Registration is now upon and the deadline for for proposals has been extended until March 15th.

Please contact events@emergentmethod.com with questions.

2023 Annual LaTEM Summit Call For Presentations

"Louisiana's Future Belongs to You!" Come join LaSTEM, the Louisiana Science Teachers Association (LSTA), and the Louisiana Association of Math Teachers (LATM) for the 2023 Annual LaSTEM Summit on October 17 at the Cajundome Convention Center in Lafayette.

Educators interested in presenting at the LaSTEM Summit should apply by **March 14**.

Please contact LaSTEM@laregents.edu with questions.

Computer Science (CS) Engagement

- The Computer Science Education Commission is seeking stakeholder feedback on the Louisiana CS Framework, teacher certification options, CS courses, and CS IBC offerings.

- We will be hosting more listening sessions for educators, industry professionals, and higher education in the future.

- Please use this survey link if you are interested in participating.

Please contact digitallearning@la.gov with questions.

Request for EdTech and Cyber Security Plans

- If your school system has an EdTech Plan and/or Cybersecurity Plan, please send a copy or link to digitallearning@la.gov.
  - Thank you to everyone who has already submitted.
- We plan on using these plans to understand key initiatives across our state and ensure that those items are in SuperApp to support funding.
- School Systems are encouraged to highlight their plan at one of our monthly meetings to demonstrate their success and support other school systems.

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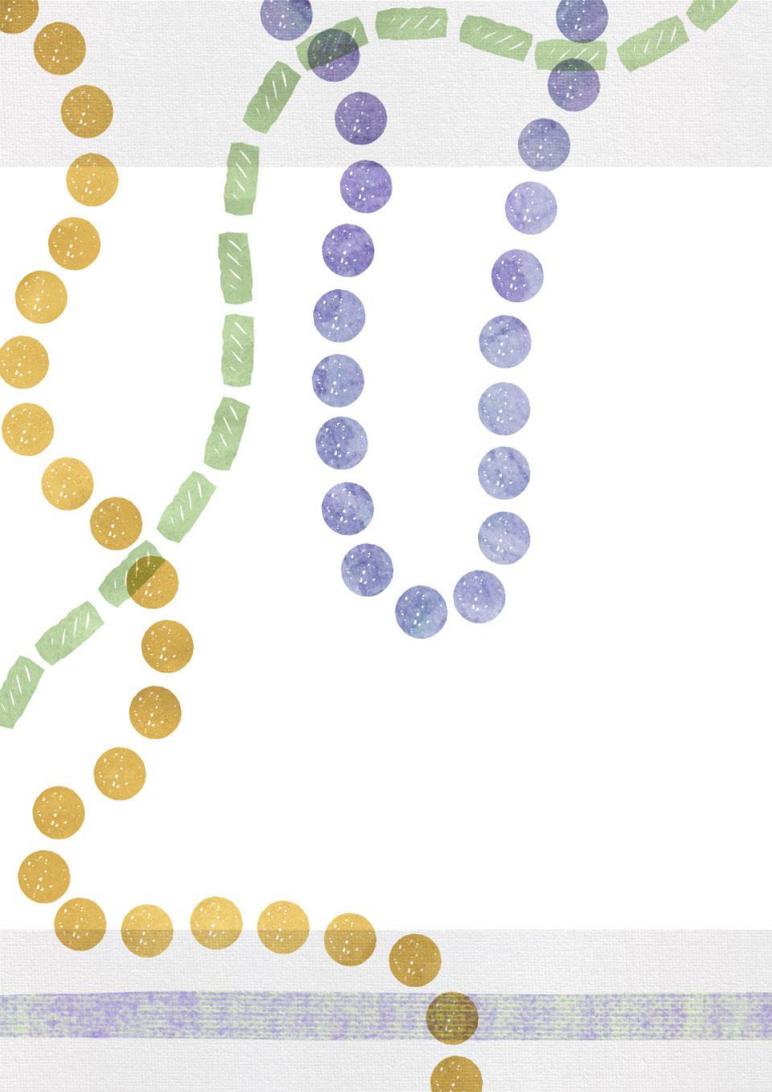
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Cybersecurity

#StopRansomware: Royal Ransomware

Cyber criminals are targeting U.S and international organizations including K-12 entities using the Royal ransomware variant.

The FBI and CISA released the Joint Cybersecurity Advisory, #StopRansomware: Royal Ransomware to disseminate known Royal ransomware Indicators of Compromise (IOCs) and Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures (TTPs).

Tactics used to gain initial access to victim networks include: Phishing, Remote Desktop Protocol (RDP) compromise, exploiting vulnerabilities on public facing applications, and using credentials and VPNs from third party Brokers.

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#StopRansomware: Royal Ransomware

Actions you can take today:

- Prioritize remediating known exploited vulnerabilities.
- Train users to recognize and report phishing attempts.
- Enable and enforce multifactor authentication.

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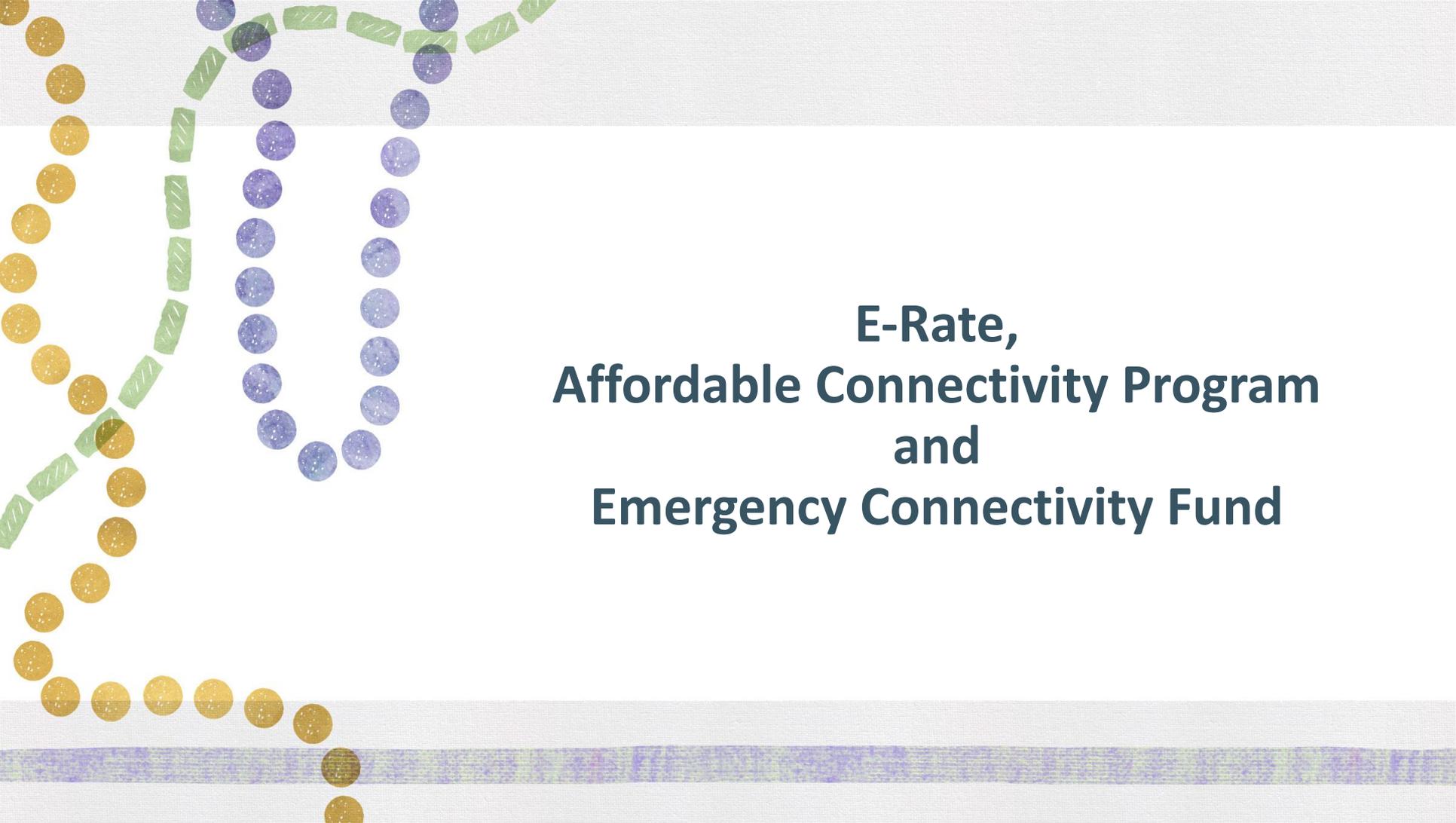
E-Rate,
Affordable Connectivity Program
and
Emergency Connectivity Fund

SAM.Gov System Error

If your school/system received the email below which appeared to be either be a spam email or someone maliciously attempting to change your SAM.gov registration -- it has been identified as a error in the application and their is no need for concern or action.

Subject: SAM.gov | Someone updated the entity registration for {{LBN}}
kamiya@n-messcud.jp updated the SAM.gov entity registration for {{LBN}}, Unique Entity ID {{UEI}}, in SAM.gov on 2023-03-07.
You are receiving this email because you are an Entity Administrator for this entity in SAM.gov.

kamiya@n-messcud.jp identified themselves as not being an employee, officer, or board member of {{LBN}}, and listed contractual agreement dates with this entity of {{CREATED_DATE}} to {{EXPIRATION_DATE}}.

kamiya@n-messcud.jp also listed {{POC}} as the authorized point of contact for {{LBN}}, Unique Entity ID {{UEI}}.
If you think this message has been received in error, please contact the Federal Service Desk.

This email was sent from SAM.gov

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ECF Inventory and Record Retention

The FCC issued a Public Notice (DA 23-166) last week reminding applicants of the inventory and unmet need records that must be retained to support ECF funding awards.

Specifically, the FCC indicates that equipment inventories must identify:
1) The device or equipment type (i.e., laptop, tablet, mobile hotspot, modem, router);
2) The device or equipment make/model;
3) The device or equipment serial number;
4) The full name of the person to whom the device or other piece of equipment was provided; and
5) The dates the device or other piece of equipment was distributed (or loaned out) and returned, or the date the school or library was notified that the device or other piece of equipment was missing, lost, or damaged.

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ECF Inventory and Record Retention (cont')

Service inventories must include the following information:

1) Type of service provided (i.e., DSL, cable, fiber, fixed wireless, satellite, mobile wireless);
2) Broadband plan details, including upload and download speeds and monthly data cap;
3) The name(s) of the person(s) to whom the service was provided;
4) The service address (for fixed broadband service only);
5) The installation date of service (for fixed broadband service only); and
6) The last date of service, as applicable (for fixed broadband service only).

ECF Inventory and Record Retention (cont')

Applicants are also reminded to maintain documentation as to how they originally estimated "unmet need" and, more importantly, that they should request, or should have requested, reimbursement only for equipment and services provided to students, staff, or patrons who otherwise lacked broadband services and/or devices. The FCC notes that this means "that the applicant may request reimbursement for less than the estimated unmet need numbers used in their ECF FCC Form 471 funding application."

ECF Inventory and Record Retention (cont')

In the event of an audit, the FCC noted the following:

- Schools "should expect to be asked for documentation to support the actual costs of assigned equipment and/or services after funds have been committed or disbursed, and how they determined their unmet need."

- Libraries are required "to provide patrons with a copy of an eligible use policy, which explains that the equipment or service is intended for library patrons who do not otherwise have access to equipment or services sufficient to meet the patrons' educational needs, and patrons must sign and return a statement saying they would otherwise lack such access."

District Rural and Urban Designations

Based on the new 2020 census data, some areas across the country will have changed their rural and urban designations changed. These changes were released and will begin being used by the federal government for grants as well as for the E-Rate program. Because USAC is still working to complete reviews of ECF funding, USAC has not updated their database for SY 2023-24 reviews and are still working off the old designations. We will be working to internally determine which schools and school systems may be impacted by these changes.

For E-Rate purposes, Rural schools/systems receive an higher percentage discount within each funding band.

State Validation File

The State has submitted its approved and validated student, NSLP and CEP data to USAC and is responding to PIA inquiries for 3rd Party validation letters. If you have any questions about your school/systems data, please email EdTech@la.gov.

Reminder FY 2023 Application Window Close

The FY 2023 Form 471 application will close on Tuesday, March 28, 2023, at 11:59 p.m. EDT. Be sure to file before the deadline.

If you happen to not make the deadline, still complete and submit your application as well as a waiver of the filing deadline to USAC and the FCC. The FCC has generally been very receptive to approving appeals for late filed applications in past years.

FCC Announces E-Rate Program
Inflation-based Caps for Funding Year 2023

The FCC released DA-23-1784A1, which detailed the new funding cap for the E-Rate Program. The E-Rate program funding cap for funding year 2023 is $4,768,413,261.4 This amount represents a 7.0% inflation-adjusted increase to $4,456,460,992, the annual cap for the program last year.

In 2010, the Commission began adjusting the E-Rate program's annual cap based on the rate of inflation using the Gross Domestic Product – Chain-type Price Index (GDP-CPI) to help ensure funding keeps pace with the changing broadband and telecommunications needs of schools and libraries.

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E-Rate Important Dates and Reminders

- Upcoming Form 486 Deadlines for FY 2022
  - Feb 10 - Wave 26
  - Feb 17 - Wave 27
  - Feb 24 - Wave 28
- **March 28 -** Closing of the FY 2023 application window at 10:59 CST/11:59 p.m. EDT.

Reminders and Other Information

2022-2023 Education Technology Webinar and Office Hours

Slides from each meeting will be posted on the Educational Technology Leaders website. Recordings are available on request. A complete calendar of LDOE events can be found on the Louisiana Believes website.

Monthly Call Dates
March 9, 2023
April 13, 2023
May 11, 2023
June - Meet at LaCUE TLS
July - No Call

Time:	9:00 AM - 10:00 AM
Webinar Link	https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/575223228?pwd=NDNlN01SS3c0Rk4wV25aNkZhTEc2Zz09
Phone Number	1-301-715-8592
Meeting ID	Meeting ID: 575 223 228 Password: 2020-202!

Thank you for joining today's call.

Schedules, access links, and information for the Department's webinars can be found in the LDOE Weekly Newsletter and LDOE School System Support Calendar.

Helpful Links

- A+PEL PD for Educators
- LACUE
- Louisiana Believes Homepage
- School Improvement Library

Support Toolboxes

- Teacher
- System
- Principal
- Counselor
- Education Technology Staff

Reminders and Repeats

Reminder: Technology Contacts

- To ensure continuous and effective communication, Educational Technology is requesting updated contact information for Education Technology leaders and IT leaders for school systems.
- Submit this form to update contact information.

Contact digitallearning@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: Cyber.org Technology Grant Program

Cyber.org's technology grant program is designed to support teachers and qualified extracurricular programs to provide cyber education to K-12 students across the United States. While grant applications can be submitted continuously throughout the year, the Spring application period's deadline is **March 15**, and awards will be given in April.

Please contact digitallearning@la.gov with questions.

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