



TECHNOLOGY FOOTPRINT

District Supports

The Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) is committed to supporting districts in achieving technology readiness goals in all schools across the state. The Department continues to expand its technology support and services based on district needs and requests.

E-Rate Assistance

The Department has expanded its support and training to districts that utilize the federal E-Rate program to purchase telecommunication hardware, software and services. The E-Rate program provides schools with discounts on broadband Internet, network infrastructure, and other telecommunication costs. Last year, districts in Louisiana have received over \$36.5 million E-rate dollars as of January 2014. The Department's increased support with E-rate will translate to even more reimbursements in the coming years. For more information contact your district's assigned Point-of-Contact.

State-level Technology Contracts

In an effort to support the purchasing of low-cost, high quality technology products, the state has negotiated technology contracts for schools to utilize in procuring hardware, software and services. These contracts represent a significant discount over standard pricing as well as expanded technology service and support options for districts. The initial contracts focused on laptop, desktop, and tablet computers. Contracts have expanded to include computer software, peripherals, support, network hardware and support, technology services, and telecommunication products and services. Information on contracts are published in LDOE's [*Connections Catalog*](#).

Technology and Infrastructure Planning

LDOE will be releasing a new guide to technology planning to assist districts in achieving their technology goals. The guide includes sample benchmark measurements, budgeting templates, sample policies, and training considerations. Districts and schools will be able to use these resources to develop their own long-term roadmap for meeting technology readiness goals, E-Rate requirements and most importantly educational goals.

Technology Mini-Conferences and Meetings

The Department in partnership with technology companies and local businesses has provided districts with opportunities to attend both face-to-face and web-based mini-conferences aimed at supporting technology readiness for learning and assessments. These events focus on providing school technology staff with resources and guidance for designing new or upgraded infrastructure; market technology roadmaps; training on specific hardware and software design, set-up and management; real-world planning and guidance from other districts; expanded communications around technology challenges; and information on IT management and policies. Future events will be announced in LDOE's weekly newsletter and through District Planning calls.
