



SOUTH COAST EDUCATION SERVICE DISTRICT

"Serving school districts in Coos, Curry and Western Douglas counties."

Main Office
1350 Teakwood, Coos Bay, OR 97420
(541) 269-1611 • TDD: (541) 269-1611
Fax: (541) 269-4531

South Branch Office
29805 Mary Street, P.O. Box 786
Gold Beach, OR 97444
(541) 247-6681 • Fax: (541) 247-2603

Last Mile Connectivity Grant Application

1. Project Description – Describe the telecommunication challenge you seek to overcome, and how your proposal provides a viable, long-term solution:

South Coast Education Service District serves ten districts on the southern Oregon coast. The school districts range in size from around 3500 students to as low as 150 students. Most of our school districts reside in small rural communities and one of our technology goals is to provide the same level of access to all of our districts. Our philosophy is that every student should have equal opportunity to technology learning tools.

The technology department at SCESD has been working hard to upgrade our school districts from their existing frame relay T1 circuits to higher speed fiber networks. Unfortunately some of the districts reside outside the current service areas of the two fiber data circuit providers. These districts must pay a higher installation charge to bring the fiber to their buildings. Because of shrinking student counts and flat budgets these districts are not able to pay the higher installation costs, but because the monthly cost is comparable to the current frame relay circuit they will be able to afford the ongoing monthly costs.

During the summer of 2008 SCESD created a new 100 MB fiber network using Charter Communications. We connected five sites from two school districts with plans to connect more of our districts. SCESD also has a 20 MB fiber network with ORCA Communications that interconnects our districts that are using frame relay.

Our proposal is to have the fiber network built out to three school districts: Coquille School District, Myrtle Point School District and Central Curry School District and connect them to our existing fiber networks. This will provide 10 MB connections to each school district with the ability to increase the bandwidth at any time without installing new equipment.

These improvements will allow the districts to utilize on-line student testing, video streaming, video conferencing, and multi-media application. Currently these districts are limited as to how many students can utilize these types of applications at the same time.

2. Description of how the proposal satisfies the Criteria outlined in Section E:

Our proposal builds upon existing infrastructure and partnerships that SCESD has with the fiber network providers. This grant will help three of our districts build out the fiber to their districts from the fiber providers' network. We will be replacing the current frame relay T1 circuits at each district with a 10 MB fiber connection. These sites will then be connected to the existing SCESD fiber network.

3. Description of site(s) covered and projected number of students and educators served:

Coquille SD is located in the small town of Coquille. They have four building locations that are currently connected together by wireless bridges. They have 920 students and 125 staff members.

Myrtle Point SD is located in the small town of Myrtle Point. They have four building locations that are currently connected together by wireless bridges. They have 723 students and 120 staff members.

Central Curry SD is located in the rural, remote coastal town of Gold Beach. They have two building locations that are currently connected together by wireless bridges. They have 610 students and 59 staff members.

4. Key ESD and/or school staff involved in Proposal:

Joe Frischman, Network Administrator, South Coast ESD

Joe Burkleo, Senior Technician, South Coast ESD

Teri Pointer, Business Manager, South Coast ESD

Walt Wilcott, Technology Coordinator, Coquille SD

Eileen Harrington, Business Manager, Coquille SD

Fred Sell, Technology Coordinator, Myrtle Point SD

Susan Huff, Business Manager, Myrtle Point SD

Virgil Scigla, Technician, Central Curry SD

Kristal Carpenter, Business Manager, Central Curry SD

5. Description and role of any contractors involved in Proposal:

We will use our existing partnerships with two fiber network providers.

ORCA Communications is a fiber network provider in the North Bend - Coos Bay area and partners with LS Networks to provide connectivity across the state of Oregon and beyond. We have been working with ORCA Communications since 2002. We were one of the first customers to be provided service on their fiber network. ORCA will be working with another LS Network partner, Comspan Communications, to provide fiber service to both Coquille SD and Myrtle Point SD. ORCA will be installing the fiber to each location.

Charter Communications has recently started providing fiber to some of the communities where they provide cable TV service. We have been working with Charter on the fiber network since 2007. Charter will be building out our existing fiber network to include Central Curry SD.

6. If applicable, a description of how the grant funds leverage other resources and their value:

The grant funds will help with the installation costs, and the districts will be able to use E-rate funding to pay for the monthly recurring charges. Each district has some funds available to help as needed with the installation charges.

7. If equipment is part of the funding request in the Application, a description, manufacturer and make of the equipment is required:

No equipment is part of the funding request. The fiber network providers will supply the necessary equipment to terminate their network into our buildings. We anticipate minimal equipment costs for cards and port changes. These costs will be funded with district and or SCESD funds.

8. Proposal Budget Page:

Proposal Costs

ORCA fiber installation costs Coquille SD, Myrtle Point SD (\$7,000 each)	\$14,000
ORCA fiber equipment costs Coquille SD, Myrtle Point SD (\$4,000 each)	\$8,000
Charter fiber installation costs Central Curry SD	<u>\$6,000</u>
Total Cost	\$28,000

Funding Sources

Last Mile Connectivity Grant	\$25,000
District Funds (Coquille SD & Myrtle Point SD \$1500 each)	<u>\$3,000</u>
Total Funding	\$28,000

We estimate that the monthly cost will increase from \$580 per month to about \$750 per month. With E-rate funding, the difference per month will be less than \$50. The only other option for these districts would be to install additional T1 circuits at a cost of \$580 per month, so the actual savings would be at least \$410 per month.