

**1. Project description – describe the telecommunication challenge you seek to overcome, and how your proposal provides a viable, long-term solution.**

In 1998, Salem-Keizer Public Schools passed a bond measure that included establishing fiber connections to nearly all of the schools. At that time, several sites were not eligible for this upgrade because they were outside of the coverage area for Comcast, the District's service provider. In addition, new sites have been added to serve our students. Of these sites, only two remain that can be, but are not yet, connected to the District network with fiber and are not. These are Lake Labish Elementary School and the IKE Box. A third location, Downtown Learning Center, is in a location that cannot be upgraded to fiber.

In the past, Lake Labish remained on a T-1 connection because the cost of extending fiber the "last mile" was too high. Recently, the cost to extend fiber to this remote school has come down significantly because Comcast's coverage area has expanded to come much closer to the school.

Currently both Lake Labish and the programs at IKE Box experience problems accessing centralized District and State resources such as ELPA, TESA, and online coursework.

Salem-Keizer is increasingly moving toward enterprise solutions for educational software. Lake Labish participates in two such programs – ReadAbout and Math Whizz. These applications reside on a centralized District server (in the case of ReadAbout) or the World Wide Web (in the case of Math Whizz). Lake Labish's population consists of nearly all Second Language Learners. Last year their experience with ELPA was frequently described as "painful." Increasing the speed of access to the network will ease student and staff frustrations.

At IKE Box, students frequently use the lab to access coursework on SK Online, the District's online school. They also participate in video production and limited network speed means that this takes much longer than it would at other schools, minimizing learning time and focus of the students.

Salem-Keizer Public Schools will use the funds from this grant to extend the current fiber infrastructure to these last two locations. The connection speed will increase to 100 mbps connection at Lake Labish Elementary and 10 mbps at the IKE Box. The District has made a commitment to fund the ongoing costs to maintain these connections both in this fiscal year and those in the future.

The infrastructure needed to take advantage of these upgrades are already in place both at the District's central Technology and Information Services (TIS) office and at the two locations.

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

If funded, this grant project will allow the handing off of the physical/data link connectivity from TIS Data Center to each site. Currently the TIS Data Center has all of the necessary equipment and infrastructure to accept additional fiber connections. The school and program locations will receive a Foundry switch from Comcast, the service provider, which will then be connected to the existing network infrastructure at each site.

## **3. Description of sites covered and project numbers of students and educators served.**

Lake Labish Elementary School is located in the far north section of Salem. It is a K-5 school with 92 students. It is staffed by 12 staff members for a total FTE of 8.45. Late in the summer of 2005, Lake Labish experienced a fire that destroyed much of their school. During the 2005-06 school year they became a school-within-a-school while their building was being repaired. During this time, network infrastructure was upgraded and expanded within the building. Losses included their computer lab of 20 computers which was replaced and setup only just in time for school to start. In addition to the lab, the school now has a laptop cart with 27 laptops.

The students at Lake Labish rely on computers at school to do their work since the majority of them come from very low income homes and Spanish speaking families. These families do not have the resources to purchase computers of their own, making the time the students use school computers that much more valuable.

The staff at Lake Labish is very anxious to investigate best practices in technology use to support instruction. They are open to and talk about all the "cool" things they see going on at other schools in the use of technology to support improved student achievement, yet feel they are often way behind as a result of what they have. The Media Specialist regularly integrates literacy and library with technology so that 50% of student instruction in Media is on computers.

The homeless program, located at the IKE Box, offers a seven (7) computer lab and services to the approximately 1020 homeless youth in our community. A full time Program Coordinator staffs the location. The primary function of the lab is as a Bridge site for homeless students and has an annual enrollment of 20-30 students. Bridge helps credit-deficient students reach high school graduation and continue their education in a community college or other post-high school setting. Bridge provides multiple, accelerated, supported, and individualized learning opportunities leading to a Salem-Keizer diploma through Roberts High School.

Accessing an online curriculum via a slow connection causes frustration both for the students and the Program Coordinator. Increasing the available speed will streamline the educational process for this under-served community.

In addition to Bridge, the lab is available for academic support for homeless students enrolled in traditional high schools. Breakfast and lunch are provided to the students enrolled in Bridge and the Program Coordinator does case management for the homeless students in the District from this site.

The second program housed at IKE Box is Fresh Start. "Fresh Start @ The IKE Box" is a collaborative program between Roberts High School and Isaac's Room, the non-profit program of the IKE Box, and serves students in grades 9-11. The class is taught by a certified teacher in the Salem-Keizer School District. Being in a downtown location has many benefits as it serves as an ideal placement for students to engage in community projects where learning goes outside the classroom.

The District leases this location on an annually renewable lease from the YWCA. There are no plans to move these programs from this centrally located site.

In total, providing fiber connectivity to these schools will allow us to more effectively serve a potential 1100 students and 14 staff.

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

Steven Hoffert, Manager of Infrastructure Support and Gary Kreiger, Manager of Network Services Group within Salem-Keizer Public Schools, will be directly involved in administering the grant funds to establish connectivity. Sandy Husk, Superintendent, and Richard Goward, CFO, have committed to providing the ongoing resources needed to maintain the connections after they have been established. Kristen Duus, Director of Technology and Information Services, will oversee the project.

Leslie Golden of the Willamette Educational Service District supports Salem-Keizer Public Schools in the pursuit of this grant opportunity. Because Salem-Keizer is the second largest school district in Oregon, WESD does not provide network connectivity for the District.

#### **5. Description and role of any contractors involved in Proposal.**

The District has obtained a bid from Comcast to extend the fiber to these two locations. The bid includes "last mile" and physical connectivity. Comcast will carry the contract for these connections, with monthly fees being paid for from District operational funds.

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

Lake Labish qualifies for E-Rate at 90 percent. This grant requests the funds for the remaining 10 percent. By funding 10 percent of the fiber upgrade and combining it with E-Rate funds, \$2,400 becomes a significant investment in the lives of the students and staff at Lake Labish.

Last Mile Connectivity Grant Proposal  
Salem-Keizer Public Schools

Location	Comcast Quote	E-Rate eligibility	Cost after E-Rate	Requested Amount
Lake Labish	\$ 24,000.00	90%	\$ 2,400.00	\$ 2,400.00
Ike Box	\$ 13,220.00	0	\$ 13,220.00	\$ 13,220.00
<i>Administrative Costs</i>			3.78%	\$ 590.44
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$ 37,220.00</b>		<b>\$ 15,620.00</b>	<b>\$ 16,210.44</b>