

In July 2016, the Board of the Massachusetts School Building Authority approved the establishment of the MSBA Public School Information Technology Loan Program; to pay for enhanced information technology infrastructure and increased broadband access. By July 2016, Worcester had already maximized our E-Rate funding available over the initial five-year period through the city's capital budget allocation. By the end of this school year, Worcester will have spent nearly \$560,000 in annual capital equipment funds to leverage nearly \$2.7 million in E-Rate funding replacing ten-year-old wireless networks, adding 2,000 access points to schools, laying 3,300 meters of fiber cabling in the district, and adding 135 enterprise network switches at all of our schools. Through the use of the capital equipment allocation, there was no need to participate in this loan program from MSBA.

Worcester's strategy was to maximize our E-Rate allocations in the first two years of the new five-year funding cycle in order to ensure that the district receive the full funding allocation. Since the district had already maximized our E-Rate allocation prior to July 2016, there is no benefit to the district for this MSBA loan program.