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[About CENIC](#)
[Network](#)
[Services](#)
[Projects](#)
[Associates](#)
[Publications](#)
[Events](#)


PUBLICATIONS

DCP Today

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Welcome to DCP Today, CENIC's monthly electronic newsletter detailing the latest news about the Digital California Project.

QUICK LINKS

[CENIC Today](#)
[DCP Today](#)
[GB Today](#)
[Brochures](#)
[Reports](#)
[Presentations](#)
[Video Presentations](#)
[Other Documents](#)
[CENIC Home](#)

IN THIS ISSUE:

[Digital California Project News](#)

- The 2004-2005 State Budget: High Speed Internet for K-12 and the California Teleconnect Fund
- Federal Communications Commission e-Rate Hearing on Success Stories
- Legislative Updates: SB 1254, SB 1380, SB 1394 & AB 2416

Conference Announcements

- Youth Development Summit
- Tower of Youth Digital Media Showcase
- October Keystone Conference on K-12 Videoconferencing
- National School Boards Association T+L2 Conference

[About CENIC](#)

[About DCP](#)

[Subscription Information](#)

[Digital California Project News](#)

The 2004-2005 State Budget: High Speed Internet for K-12 and the California Teleconnect Fund

The 2004-05 Budget has been signed by the Governor and it includes \$21 million for the continuation of the High Speed Internet for K-12 education. The budget language outlines the process for a lead county office of education to be selected to implement the program and provides funding through the county within 90 days of the Governor's action. The language also includes an audit procedure for all state dollars that have been contracted for internet services through CENIC since the inception of the program. The State Department of Education's request for applications (RFA) is available for any county office interested in submitting an application to become the lead agency at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/fg/fo/cf/profile.asp?id=495>.

The 2004-05 Budget has no funds for the California Teleconnect Fund program. The Teleconnect Fund provided discounts for telecommunications services for K-12 schools, libraries, and community based technology programs and hospitals. The CTF was supported by a surcharge on telephone bills and did not directly affect the state's budget.

The amount estimated by the California Public Utilities Commission as necessary to cover the cost of discount claim applications for 2004-05 was \$18 million. In past years, the amount necessary to cover the claims varied with \$32.5 million in 2000, \$56.8 million in 2002-03 and \$31.9 million in 2003-04. At one point in time, due to large fluctuations in the revenue generated by the surcharge and the carrier claims, the fund ballooned to more than \$150 million which was borrowed by the state in 2003-04 and has not been repaid to date.

The loss to K-12 public schools varies from district to district depending upon the district's E-rate discount and other factors. While the amount expected in the 2004-05 budget was \$18 million, the estimated loss to K-12 schools may be much higher. Legislators need to hear from school districts about the impact the loss of CTF will have on their district. Digital California Project will continue to work with the education community to seek restoration of the CTF funds.

Federal Communications Commission e-Rate Hearing on Success Stories

The Federal Communications Commission is sponsoring an E-rate Symposium on school and library success stories on October 6th of this year. Numerous negative news stories have focused on the "fraud, abuse and waste" discovered in school district-telecommunications' provider arrangements around the country in the past year. Congressional analysts have identified E-rate program abuses. Most of the abuses are the result of private companies taking advantage of school personnel unfamiliar with the complexity of the telecommunications industry and the technical information provided the federal government in the E-rate system. These companies also convinced school personnel to purchase high end technology beyond a district's ability to effectively use in the classroom.

To counter the rash of negative articles, the Federal Communications Commission wants to hear from school districts and libraries about the positive programs that have been made possible with the E-rate monies. More than \$2 billion are authorized for local school programs enabling school districts to provide technology services and internet access to virtually every school in America. The FCC is looking for positive school district stories about the impact of the E-rate on education programs. If your district has benefited from the federal E-rate program and you are willing to share the activities with the FCC and the public in Washington D.C., please contact Van Wilkinson at vwilkinson@shastalink.k12.ca.us for information, or submit directly at edsymposium@fcc.gov.

Legislative Updates

While the main focus has been on the state budget and the California Teleconnect Fund, there also have been several significant legislative proposals which may impact K-12 education technology programs and the administration of technology services.

SB 1254 (SOTO) extends the sunset date for the California Technology Assistance Project (CTAP) through 2009. The measure also expands the responsibilities of the CTAP to work more closely with underserved/low income school districts.

SB 1380 (ESCUTIA) allows local school districts to review and select instructional materials they deem appropriate and aligned to standards and recommend them to the State Board of Education. In the event the State Board does not adopt the instructional materials within 90 days, the materials will be automatically adopted and the local board will have the authority to purchase the materials.

SB 1394 (SCOTT) requires the California Learning Resource Network to review electronic assessment resources to assist local school districts in the selection of online resources. The bill is an urgency measure which requires two thirds vote for passage.

AB 2416 (GOLDBERG) authorizes local governing boards to review and recommend supplemental materials to the State Board of Education for approval. Local boards may use their Reading First funds to purchase supplemental materials so long as they have previously purchased the SBE approved materials. If the State Board fails to adopt the materials within 90 days, they will automatically be approved and local boards may use Reading First funds to purchase them.

The Legislature returns in August for the final month of the session. All measures still in the process will have to be passed by the time of adjournment on August 31st for consideration by the Governor by September 30th... For the latest information about these proposals, go to: <http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/>

CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Youth Development Summit

October 1, 2004

The third annual Statewide Youth Development Summit will be held at locations across the state and will be linked by a web cast at various times during the day. In the March DCP Today, the 11 regional recipients of Youth Development grants were announced. Each of the regions will help coordinate conferences for youth and adults to discuss strategies for youth involvement in policy making efforts including youth councils, city councils, school boards, public commissions and committees, non-profit organizations etc. In the next several months, key county office of education locations will be identified to host the web casts based in part upon the acceptance of guest speakers who will broadcast presentations to the regional sites. The DCP CalREN Network will enable the connection of the multi-site conference.

Tower of Youth Digital Media Showcase

Sacramento

October 2, 2004

The 8th Annual Teen Digital Reel Showcase and Awards will take place in Sacramento on October 2nd at the Crest Theater in downtown. The event, which will attract more than 1,000 teens, teachers and digital media professionals will feature digital media creations by Sacramento Valley and Sierra foothill regional high school youth. Young people from Sacramento, Yolo, El Dorado, Placer, Nevada and San Joaquin counties will participate. Students from high schools and community based media arts programs may submit work related to the environment, public service, art of partnership, the wonder of sound and music or a short story. A special category for 2004 is Leadership. For more information about the Tower of Youth program sponsors, go to <http://www.towerofyouth.org/mainindex.htm>. The deadline for entries is August 6th.

October Keystone Conference on K-12 Videoconferencing

Indianapolis

October 25-26, 2004

K-12 Videoconferencing will be the subject of a two day conference to be held in Indianapolis on October 25 and 26 and simultaneously via two way interactive video conferencing nation-wide. Conference sponsors are currently soliciting presentation proposals from K-12 programs demonstrating their use of videoconference technology. K-12 practitioners interested in submitting proposals can go to www.keystoneconference.org for more information.

National School Boards Association T+L2 Conference

Denver

October 27-29, 2004

The National School Boards Association's Technology + Leadership + Learning, (T+L2) Conference is scheduled for October 27-29th in Denver, Colorado. The conference, "Turn Up the Power" will feature

nationally recognized education technology speakers in presentations and panel discussions on issues of interest to school leaders. Several thousand school board members, administrators, teachers and librarians are expected to attend the three day conference. For more information, you can go to <http://www.nsba.org/T+L/> or email sfolks@nsba.org.

About CENIC

CENIC is a not-for-profit corporation serving California Institute of Technology, California State University, Stanford University, University of California, University of Southern California, California Community Colleges and the statewide K-12 school system.

CENIC's mission is to facilitate and coordinate the development, deployment and operation of a set of robust multi-tiered advanced network services for this research and education community.

More information about CENIC can be found at www.cenic.org.

About DCP

The Digital California Project is a project of CENIC. Funded by the State of California, the DCP was designed to build the necessary network infrastructure needed to prepare California's schools to take advantage of tomorrow's advances in network technology. In essence, CENIC is developing an advanced-services network to serve the entire California K-20 education and research community.

Subscription Information

You can subscribe to DCP Today online by visiting our website:

<http://lists.cenic.org/mailman/listinfo/dcp-today>

Website questions: webmaster@cenic.org

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