

Idaho Education Network 2014 Post Legislative Workshop

Julie Best

Communications Director

IEN Accomplishments

- In 2006 an evaluation on the ISIMS project titled *Lessons for Future Technology Projects* was commissioned by the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee - they reported that:

“Many times the connections were slow and people had to wait, wait, and wait to get to the correct screen to complete a simple task.”

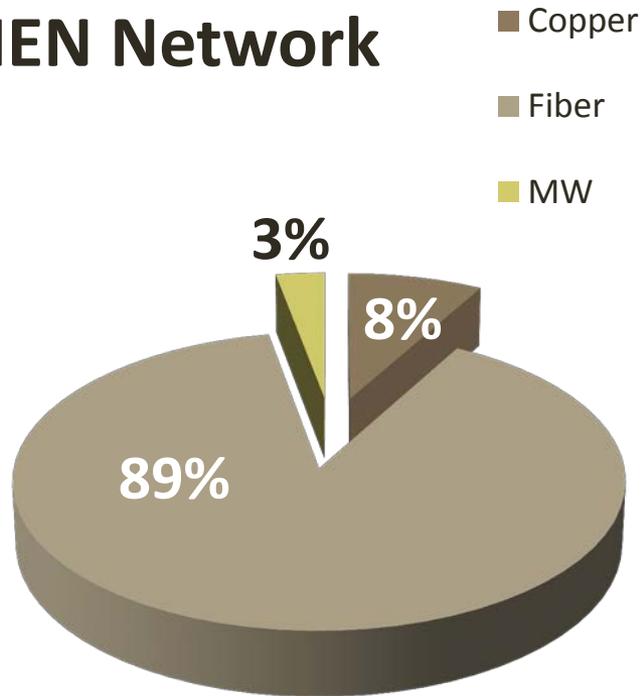
AND

“Districts must rely on the varied quality of internet services from private service providers without the development of a dedicated statewide WAN.”

- These challenges as well as many others have largely been addressed by the Idaho Education Network.

IEN Accomplishments

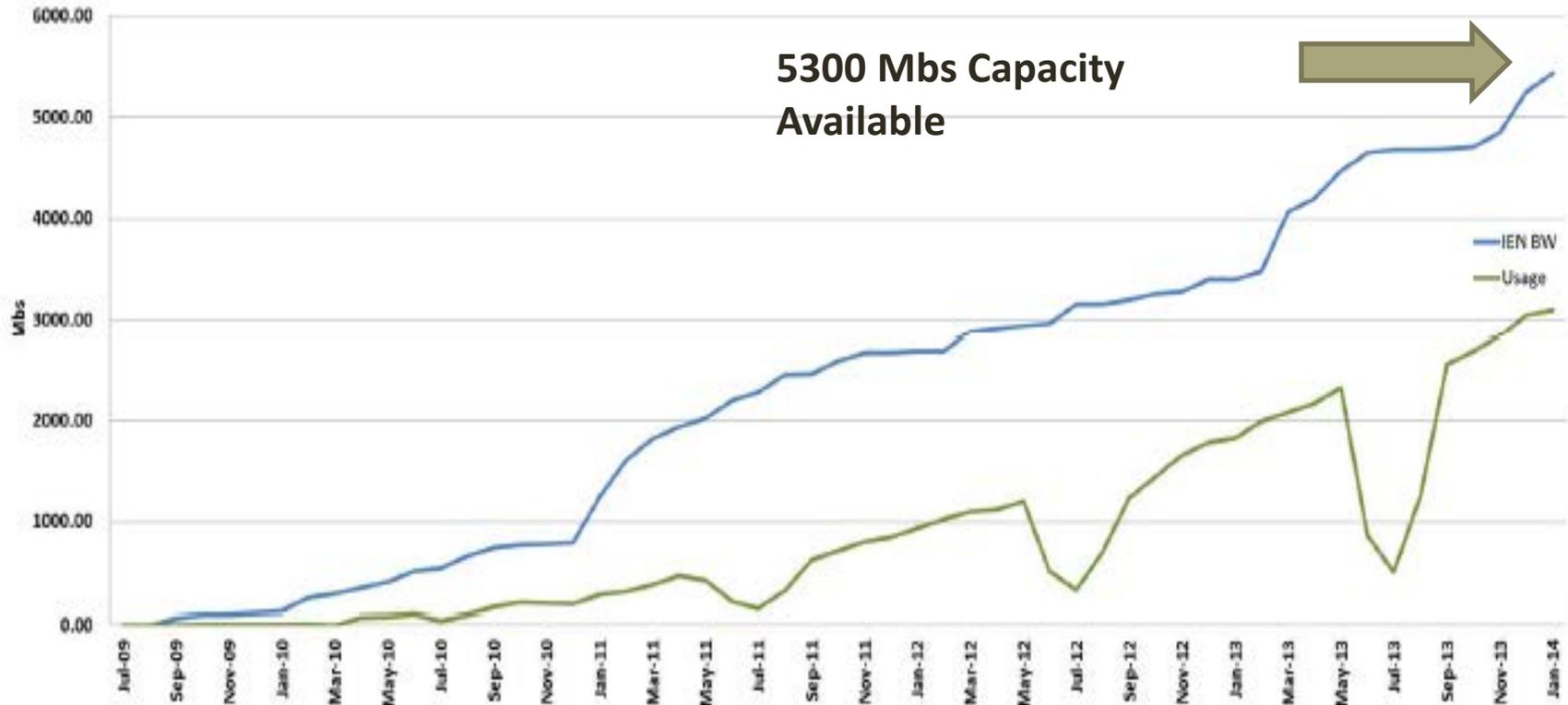
IEN Network



- Improved overall broadband technology in rural and isolated areas.
- **89%** of districts have access to fiber optic connectivity
- Increased overall capacity for growth with over **72%** of districts having greater than **10 times** their current capacity of bandwidth.

IEN Accomplishments

IEN Bandwidth Provisioned vs. Utilized for all Locations



Using 100 Mbs

Using 300 Mbs

Using 1000 Mbs

Nearing
2000 Mbs

Exceeding
3000 Mbs

2014 Legislative Session

- HB 550 – Funds the Idaho Education Network **federal** portion of e-Rate for fiscal year (FY)2014
- HB 647 – Funds the IEN operating budget which includes program staff and operations for FY2015 including the **state's** portion of e-Rate
- HB 650 – Funds the Idaho Education Network **federal** portion of e-Rate from July 1, 2014 - February 28th, 2015
- HB 651 – Initiates an evaluation of the IEN program focusing on the additional education value beyond the internet access provided



What this means for the IEN

- Most importantly the IEN will continue to provide schools in Idaho increased opportunities leveraging the broadband and video conference technologies.
- The IEN will follow the USAC review process towards restoring e-Rate funding to the network
- The IEN will support the program evaluation initiated from HB 651

What this means for schools

- We are working with USAC and hope to have funding restored soon – in the meantime we will notify all districts and provide status regarding the USAC review
- HB 651 appropriates funding for an audit of the IEN. Each location will be reviewed and we ask for your support in illustrating the value of the program.

“Being in a rural area, many of our students travel a great distance to attend school... **The IEN program is critical for our program...**the ability to share our data, to provide real-world online collaboration among educators and student to student is another component of best practices that is critical for success in the 21st century and positively impacts student learning.”

Colleen Thomson, Director of Instruction North Idaho STEM Charter Academy

“Sugar-Salem High School has been using the IEN for the past five or six years. The educational value of the IEN and the educational opportunities that have been afforded to the students at Sugar-Salem High School can not be overstated.”

Jared Jenks, the Principal at Sugar Salem High School

“Bandwidth is the new electricity.

While judicious use is necessary
...It's no longer feasible to expect
students to learn without adequate
bandwidth.”

Sherrilynn Bair, Curriculum Director
Snake River School District

“The IEN system has inspired our students to pursue things they never dreamed possible and given them a much better understanding of the opportunities that wait for them through pursuing education beyond high school. The **Idaho Education Network has been a game changer for our rural district**, helping to “level the playing field” for our students who do not have access to home computers, internet connections, or the ability to travel.”

Terri Vasquez, Principal Homedale Elementary School