

## Calhoun County Schools

Calhoun County has participated in the E-rate program for at least the past five years. E-rate discounts have enabled our school district to provide equal access to network and Internet resources for ALL of our students that we would otherwise not be able to afford. This access is provided for EVERY computer in our district for EVERY student, kindergarten through twelfth grade. In addition, E-rate discounts for cell service has enabled us to increase the effectiveness of our safety and security plan and provide a venue for real-time access to technology support. Discounts for services such as T1 lines for voice and data traffic connect the schools back to the district technology office to provide WAN capabilities for Internet and data access for students and staff. Discounted fax lines are used as further communication tools with the community, parents, and other schools. Fax lines are also used for emergency use when the power is out and other phone services are not available.

Not only does the E-rate program enable our district to provide greater access to technology resources for students, but it also frees up funding in other technology areas so we can put more tools in the hands of teachers and students as we infuse technology skills into the daily curriculum. It is imperative that we continue to equip our students in this new and expanding area of technology so they may compete in tomorrow's global economy.