

## Piedmont City Schools

Here is a list of facts related to technology in our school system. As you are probably aware, Piedmont City Schools typically ranks in the lower 10% of funding for school systems in our state. Our local funding is on the rise recently, but we will still rank in the bottom 25%. Although all of the items that you see were not funded directly by E-rate, all are definitely impacted. Desktop computers are not funded by E-rate, but all of our LANs were, including servers. The switch that connects our WAN was funded through E-rate. Additionally, the money that we save on telecommunications (phone bills, and cellular service) is invested into our instructional program. This may be a stretch with E-rate, but we are one of the few school systems in North Al. that has a research-based reading program in grades K-6. We used our savings from phone bills to help fund that program.

- Lowest student to internet connected computer ratio in the state of Al. (by lowest, I mean that our ratio is better than anyone else, including Mt. Brook, Homewood, etc.)
- 100 Mbps connection to all computers
- Fiber Optic WAN connecting all schools and offices in our school system.
- Local video broadcasting at our high school. (made possible with fiber connections to each classroom)
- All of our regular diploma 9th grade students take Algebra A and Algebra B (2 credits) during their ninth grade year. This program is taught via computer-aided instruction (CAI) in one of our 3 computer labs at Piedmont High School. All Piedmont High School Students are required to complete Algebra II. We are the only school system in the state with this requirement. It would not be possible if not for the strong mathematics foundation that our students gain through the CAI in Algebra A and B.
- Computer-aided reading instruction for all students in grades K-5.

Let me know what you think and if you want pictures.

Thanks for all that ASC does for our school system.

Matt Akin