



Alabama Supercomputer Authority Newsletter

ASA Spotlight

Elevate Project

Project Elevate is underway, and we're excited to share the journey with you. This initiative represents the next chapter for ASA as we bring more services in-house, strengthen our network, and expand the expertise of our team. By building internal capacity, ASA will be able to respond more quickly to member needs, ensure long-term stability, and continue providing fast, secure, and cost-effective internet across Alabama. Here are the next steps you can expect as Project Elevate continues to move forward.

- Request for Proposal published for AREN Internet Connections
- Start Awarding Contracts to Vendors
- Phase 1 Member Internet Service Installations

In addition, ASA's business office in Montgomery has a new home at 445 Dexter Ave, Montgomery, AL 36104. This move reflects our growth and provides us with the space and resources we need to continue serving schools, libraries, and institutions across the state.

Update from Member Services

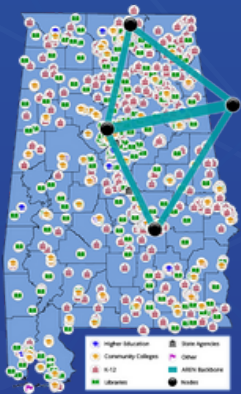
As we begin Funding Year 2025 (FY25), preparation for filing our Funding Year 2026 (FY26) E-Rate application is already underway. The first step in this process is for ASA to collect a Letter of Agency (LOA) from each of our E-Rate Consortium Members. This form authorizes ASA to file an E-Rate application on your behalf for FY26.

You should have recently received an email from docs@asc.edu that included the LOA form and our Consortium Announcement, which outlines the services ASA offers to your school district/library. The form is also available on our website: <https://www.asc.edu/service-area/e-rate>.

If you haven't already done so, please submit the completed LOA to docs@asc.edu as soon as possible.

For any questions regarding the LOA, Consortium Announcement—or E-Rate in general—please feel free to reach out to Tyler Carr at tcarr@asc.edu or by phone at 334-659-4771.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this important step in the E-Rate process.



Connecting Alabama: What is AREN?

The Alabama Research and Education Network (AREN) is more than just “internet access.” It’s a statewide backbone designed specifically for education, managed by ASA.

AREN connects over 1,000 schools, libraries, and universities with secure, high-speed internet. Unlike commercial providers, AREN is purpose-built for education and research, with built-in security, content filtering, and 24/7 monitoring.

At the core of AREN are four major network nodes located in Huntsville, Birmingham, Montgomery, and Atlanta. These hubs form the backbone that carries traffic across the state and beyond, ensuring reliable connections in every county of Alabama.

By linking classrooms, labs, and libraries across Alabama, AREN levels the playing field. Whether you’re a student in a rural district or a researcher in a university lab, you have the same secure, dependable connection to the digital world.

Message from the CEO

Debra Wallace



As the new school year begins, I want to extend a warm welcome to Alabama's students, educators and school staff. Each new year brings opportunity, and at ASA, we remain focused on providing the tools and resources that enable success in every classroom.

Technology continues to shape how students learn, collaborate, and prepare for the future. At the heart of this transformation is broadband. Reliable, high-speed internet access—both at school and at home—is no longer optional; it is essential. It connects students to advanced learning opportunities, gives teachers innovative ways to engage their classrooms, and ensures that every learner, regardless of location, has access to the same wealth of information and resources.

ASA's network provides secure connectivity to nearly 1,200 education sites across the state, and we continue to expand and strengthen this foundation in partnership with our local telecommunications providers. Cybersecurity has long been a priority for ASA, and we remain steadfast in strengthening protections across Alabama's schools. Just as students and teachers depend on broadband for daily learning, safeguarding that access is vital. We continue to provide schools with the tools, safeguards, and training necessary to protect sensitive information and ensure secure, reliable digital learning environments.

As we embark on this school year, our goal is clear: to ensure every Alabama student has the connectivity and security necessary to thrive in an increasingly digital world. Together, with the support of our educators, families, and technology partners, we will continue building a stronger, smarter, and safer digital foundation for learning.

Wishing everyone a successful and inspiring year ahead!

ASA will be attending ALET Fall Symposium Sept. 21st-24th



Stop by our booth to catch up on what's new at ASA, connect with our team, and pick up some ASA gear!