



THE HUB

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The Alabama Supercomputer Authority
Newsletter

ENGINEERING & INSTALLATION TEAM



L to R: Jacob Ennis, Zachary Frank, Brody Dean, Clayton Maylin, Rick Bagwell, Mike Trice, Dexter Lessner-Castillo, and James Duncan.

Our engineering and installation team will be visiting nearly 500 locations in the state over the next three months preparing for the first phase of our insourcing project known as “Elevate”.

An independent and upgraded network is being provisioned in parallel with the existing ASA network, and approximately 40% of ASA consortium members will be moved to the new network this summer. These first staging visits by vendors and our team will have absolutely no impact on existing services.

To complete our transition on time, we encourage our members to allow our team access to their sites during school or working hours and even during school testing and registration.

Once the new parallel network is complete, ASA engineers and transport vendors will work closely with consortium members to move production service to the new network. This final move will be scheduled to minimize downtime and avoid times where member Internet access needs are critical. The goal of these changes is to provide higher bandwidths and levels of support while reducing costs to the education community in Alabama.

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Project Elevate Update

From the desk of Andrew McClure, Director of Technical Services

I wanted to take a moment to share an update on Project Elevate and the progress we're making.

Having been part of the ASA program for the past two years, it's exciting to see how far we've come—and even more exciting to see what's just ahead.

We've made significant progress over the past several months. The RFP process has been completed, and we've successfully awarded new connections for all Phase 1 member sites.

ASA has already placed orders for these new connections, and our Engineering and Installation team is actively working in the field to connect phase 1 sites. We are on track to have all Phase 1 connections operational by July 1, 2026.

If you run into any issues, or if you simply have questions or concerns along the way, please don't hesitate to reach out to me. I'm here to help and want to make sure this process goes as smoothly as possible for you. We appreciate your partnership and your patience as we continue moving Project Elevate forward.



FY26 E-Rate Consortium

From the desk of Tyler Carr, E-Rate Manager

ASA is excited to announce the successful certification of 261 E-Rate applications for K-12 school and library consortium members for Funding Year 2026 (FY26). As part of our Elevate initiative, 138 of these applications support Phase 1 members scheduled to transition to the new AREN network on July 1, 2026. This milestone represents a significant team effort, and we sincerely thank everyone who contributed to making it possible.

In the coming weeks, Form 479s and CIPA agreements will be distributed to K-12 schools and libraries and should be completed quickly to allow us to certify Form 486s and ensure funding is available starting July 1, 2026. Also, renewal agreements will be sent to all Phase 1 members (all affected entities have been notified). These agreements supersede any previous contracts, so we ask that signed copies be returned promptly.

We appreciate your continued support and look forward to a successful FY26.



Message from the CEO - Debra Wallace

The Power of E-Rate in Alabama

At Alabama Supercomputer Authority (ASA), we see every day how important internet access is to education in our State. The federal E-Rate program continues to be one of the most important tools in ensuring that Alabama students have access to reliable, high-speed internet.

Across Alabama, nearly 750,000 students depend on school connectivity for learning. Through our statewide consortium approach, ASA works alongside school systems to maximize E-Rate funding, reduce costs, and deliver reliable, secure network services.

Over the past five years, Alabama has received more than \$235 million in E-Rate funding, supporting schools and libraries across the state. These investments power the infrastructure behind digital learning—high-speed internet, secure networks, and the around-the-clock support schools rely on every day. According to the latest data, Alabama receives approximately \$52 per student in E-Rate funding, ranking 5th in the nation for funding per student.

We are proud to support this work and remain committed to strengthening connectivity for schools across Alabama.

For more information on the services we provide, including Managed Firewall Services and High Performance Computing, go to asc.edu.



2026 Conference Schedule

- **AETC**
June 15-19 Huntsville, AL
- **SSA**
June 21-23 Orange Beach, AL
- **MEGA**
July 20-24 Mobile, AL
- **ALET**
September 20-23 Orange Beach, AL
- **SC Conference**
November 15-20 Chicago, IL