

California K-12 High Speed Network



FAQ Sheet

Q: What is the CA K-12 High Speed Network (HSN)?

A: The California K-12 High Speed Network is a state funded effort to connect every K-12 school, district and county office of education to each other, and to the same high speed, advanced services network backbone which connects the state's higher education institutions. The K12HSN is linked to the larger Internet2 as well as the public internet.

The mission of the California K-12 High Speed Network is to enable educators, students and staff across the state to have access to a reliable high speed network which has the capacity to deliver high quality online resources to support teaching and learning and promote academic achievement.

Q: Who owns the network?

In September 2004, the Imperial County Office of Education, the Mendocino and Butte County Offices of Education, and School Services of California, Inc were selected to oversee state funding for K-12 high speed networking services.

For the 2004-05 school year, the consortium contracted with the Corporation for Education Networking Initiatives in California (CENIC) to provide K-12 networking services. CENIC operates the existing K-12 network (formerly known as the Digital CA Project).

Q: Who is CENIC?

A: The Corporation for Education Network Initiatives in California (CENIC) is a nonprofit corporation founded by the five major California universities: California Institute of Technology, California State University, Stanford University, University of California, and the University of Southern California. The mission of CENIC is to facilitate and coordinate the development, deployment, and operation of a set of robust advanced communications services for education and research organizations in California based on the newest Internet technology.

Q: Why do we need the CA K-12 HSN?

A: While today's Internet is widely viewed as an effective means to provide information and a limited array of services to K-12 educator and students, it is insufficient to facilitate the comprehensive sharing of resources and delivery of high quality programs and services.

Although there are programs like the Federal E-Rate program in place for supporting the development of the technology infrastructure at each school site and interconnecting the schools within a district - prior to the K12HSN and its predecessor known as the Digital CA Project- no cohesive effort existed in California to address the need for connectivity among all segments of education statewide or to provide K-12 schools with the advanced network services necessary to access the rich information and services most useful in an educational setting.

Q: What benefits does the network provide?

A: The K12HSN provides access to rich content resources for teaching and learning, to prepare students with the basic knowledge and specific skills to inspire them to enter and be successful in higher education and in the 21st century workforce.

Additionally, the network serves a statewide "Intranet" for education that allows a new breed of applications and uses to be developed and supported.

Q: What roles do the Imperial, Mendocino and Butte county offices and School Services of CA have in the CA K-12 HSN?

A: The county offices and School Services, selected by the CA Dept. of Education via a competitive process, are charged with overseeing all aspects of the K12HSN in accordance with the following goals:

Goal 1: Manage and support a network infrastructure that adequately serves K-12 needs today, tomorrow and into the future.

Goal 2: Provide an open, inclusive process to nurture a culture of effective collaboration among all stakeholders.

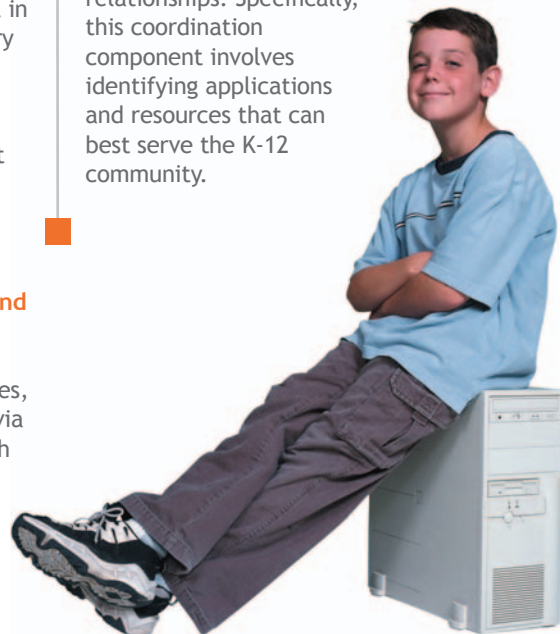
Goal 3: Effectively and efficiently administer the K12HSN using good stewardship and responsive management.

Goal 4: Promote effective use of the K12HSN to improve teaching and learning.

Q: What kinds of content or applications are available for use on the network?

A: While development of applications and resources is outside the scope of this project, the K12HSN will work to enhance access to resources available through other education technology programs, the 58 county offices of education, and resources provided by other entities who are willing to share. The resources will address a wide range of needs including teacher preparation, professional development, curriculum, and library information resources.

The K12HSN offers a coordinating mechanism for strengthening the educational relationships between the K-12 schools and universities and an environment that nurtures these relationships. Specifically, this coordination component involves identifying applications and resources that can best serve the K-12 community.



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The programs, applications and services provided through these relationships are delivered via the K12HSN in a friendly, time efficient manner for K-12 educators and students.

Q: What is the current status of the CA K-12 HSN?

A: 76 K-12 node sites (at least one in every county) are linked together and to higher education institutions via a statewide fiber loop. Because most of the node sites for the CA K-12 High Speed Network are co-located with countywide K-12 networks, a high percentage of schools are connected to the K12HSN.

Current estimates show that approximately 73% of the schools serving more than 4 million students and 82% of the district offices are connected to the network with at least a T-1 line via their county based node site.

Q: Is my school connected to the CA K-12 HSN?

A: For information about a specific school, please contact the Network Liaison for the geographic region in which the school is located. A list of Network Liaisons can be viewed at: www.k12hsn.org.

Q: Who pays for the CA K-12 HSN?

A: The Governor and the California State Legislature provide funding for the K12HSN through the annual state budget act.

Q: How much does it cost to connect to the CA K-12 HSN?

A: Districts support the cost of connectivity between the district office and the nearest county node site. Such costs can be offset by 50% or more from the California Teleconnect Fund and the federal E-Rate program. There is no cost to individual schools or districts for the services provided by the K12HSN.

Q: How does the CA K-12 HSN help bridge the “digital divide” in California?

A: By delivering high-performance networking services to every county in California, the K12HSN is helping all of California’s students benefit from the tremendous resources made possible by this advanced services network.

For example, rural and urban schools that had little or no access to advanced placement courses are able to use the K12HSN to access a range of AP courses available through the University of California College Prep Initiative.

Q: Who will operate and maintain this new network?

A: The K12HSN contracted with CENIC for the services of a Network Operations Center (NOC) to oversee the operations of the network on a round-the-clock (24/7) basis. Individual counties and/or school districts are responsible for developing and monitoring their own connections to the K12HSN.

Q: Don’t our schools already have Internet access?

A: Although access to the current public Internet has helped K-12 education, the K12HSN advanced services network has opened up a new realm of experiences for K-12 students and educators alike. High performance networks represent a quantum leap from the type of public Internet access available to most California K-12 schools.

Students previously traveled on the “information superhighway”. With the K12HSN, they are able to work, learn and grow from a state-of-the-art “launching pad”.

Q: Will the CA K-12 HSN provide computers for our classrooms?

A: The K12HSN is designed to provide the network infrastructure for statewide interconnectivity of existing computer networks among K-12 entities. Acquisition of additional computer systems or local area networks is beyond the scope of this project.

Q: How is K-12 involved in the ongoing planning and development of the CA K-12 HSN?

A: The K12HSN management team believes that is important to draw upon the resources and the expertise of K-12 educators and administrators in order to ensure the efforts success. To do so, two committees with statewide representation have been formed. The Network Implementation Committee assists with technical matters. The Applications Coordination Committee addresses issues pertaining to content and usage.

Q: What’s the difference between the CA K-12 HSN and DCP?

A: The DCP refers to the program administered by UC prior to being transitioned to the K-12 consortium. The K12HSN is the current program administered by Imperial COE and its partners.

Q: I’m a Node Site representative. What changes from DCP to K12HSN affect me?

A: The most obvious change affecting node sites is the primary contact for program related issues. Any inquiries related to the program implementation should be directed to the contact listed below.

However, all technical issues and support requests continue to go directly to the CENIC NOC as in the past.

Q: How do I find out more about the CA K-12 HSN?

A: Information about the K12HSN is available on the internet at www.k12hsn.org.

Q: Who do I contact to learn more about the possible use of the network?

A: You may contact the K12HSN at info@k12hsn.org or you may call the main program office at (760) 312-6158.

