

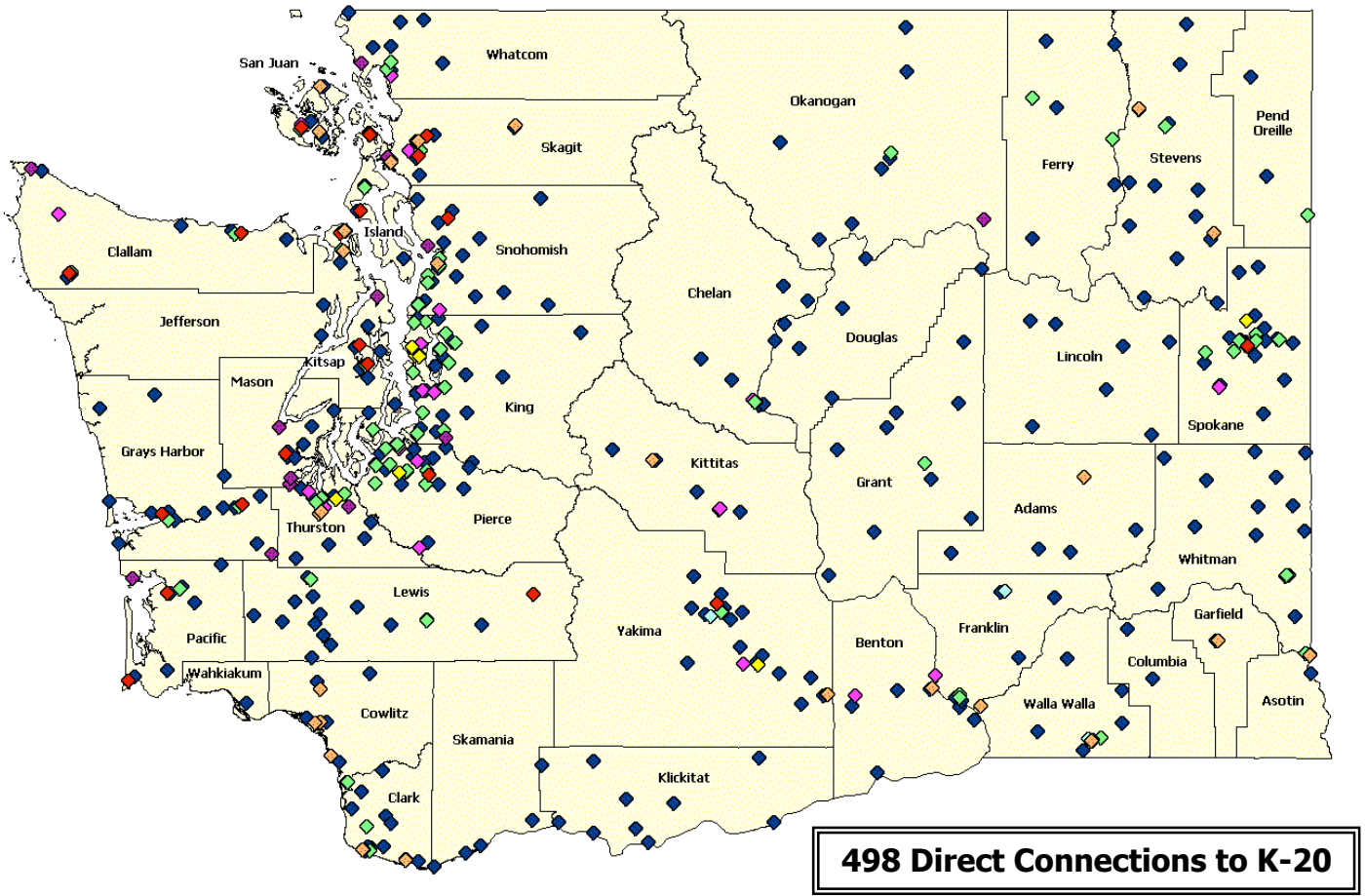


Background

Founded in 1996, the K-20 Education Network is a visionary solution to a unique convergence: the advent of the statewide broadband transport network; the diverse needs expressed by all sectors of the educational community; and the state's will to build a single, reliable, cost-effective solution. The result is the nation's first high-speed, high-capacity network linking colleges, universities, K-12 school districts and libraries statewide and providing a remarkable world of educational resources students can access anytime, anywhere.

In an age when technology is critical to success in learning and life, the K-20 Education Network delivers on Washington State's priority to provide a world-class public education. We provide an open network that is highly reliable, centrally managed and economical, with equal access for all participants. In the process, we enable more efficient use of scarce teacher resources and sought-after programs, making them available to students in communities large and small, urban and rural. By dissolving the digital divide and empowering students to learn where they live, we enable them to succeed in, and contribute to, our state's local communities and economies.

The K-20 Education Network provides video and data services to education facilities located throughout the state. Video services are used for such purposes as distance education and teacher training. Data services are used for Internet access by faculty and students and processing of education related applications.



498 Direct Connections to K-20

- ◆ K-12 School District/ ESD (306)
- ◆ Community/ Technical College (77)
- ◆ Public College/ University (44)
- ◆ Tribal College/ Tribal Education Center (14)
- ◆ Independent College/ University (6)
- ◆ Public Library (28)
- ◆ Telemedicine Site (20)
- ◆ Correctional Facility (3)

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K-20 09-11 Biennium
Approved Budget
(in millions)

Appropriation	\$16.0
User co-pays	\$6.9
Total	\$22.9

Benefits

Equal access to technology

Geographically remote and economically challenged communities across Washington State have access to the same information and communication resources available to the State's largest, most thriving metropolitan areas and universities.

Putting education first

The K-20 Education Network is not simply a provider of network transport technology. It is specifically designed to meet the diverse and unique needs of the educational community, and to enable and encourage the broad participation and energetic collaboration of very educational stakeholder. K-20's connection to Internet2 is just one of many examples of this emphasis on educational collaboration.

Reaching more students

The K-20 Network facilitates a more efficient use of scarce teacher resources. For example, one qualified Advanced Placement teacher may offer classes to students in several different school districts. K-20 also facilitates teacher training through its videoconferencing capability, which is particularly important for rural areas of the state.

Funding

Funding for the K-20 Network is derived from two sources: Legislative appropriations and user fees. In addition, the K-20 Network participates in the federal E-rate program, which provides discounts on circuit costs.

Impacts

The following examples illustrate how the K-20 Network is impacting education and career preparation across the state. For every story here, there are dozens more that exist, or are in the wings and waiting to be supported.

- A joint program between Washington State University and Grays Harbor Community College has allowed residents of economically depressed Grays Harbor County to obtain bachelor's degrees in education by attending videoconference distance education classes in their community.
- A single, qualified instructor for the deaf used videoconferencing to conduct simultaneous reading classes for deaf students in multiple school districts. Prior to the K-20 network, some of these students had little or no contact with qualified instructors.
- A newly disabled single mother in Ilwaco sought retraining to return to the workforce. The nearest college was 70 miles away – a three-hour commute. With the advent of distance education over the K-20 network, she was able to obtain an associate degree in accounting through a community college satellite campus and return to work.
- Staff at the Washington School for the Blind provided crucial assistance to a blind student in Conway, 220 miles from the school. There was no Braille instructor available in Conway; using K-20 videoconferencing, an instructor in Vancouver was able to observe hand movements and directly assist the student learning to read Braille.
- Using the K-20 network, Native American students pursuing teaching careers at the Northwest Indian College on the Lummi Reservation were able to obtain bachelors' degrees in education through a cooperative program with Washington State University. Students on the reservation participated in classes being taught at WSU via videoconferencing.