

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

March 18, 2003

SUBJECT: Florida Information Resource Network – Status Report

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

Informational

AUTHORITY FOR STATE BOARD ACTION

N/A

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Florida Department of Education (DOE) provides an educational network for Internet access and data reporting services to the Florida educational community, which includes post-secondary, K-12 schools and libraries through the Florida Information Resource Network (FIRN). For the past fifteen years DOE, under educational specific appropriations, has supported the above operations. The tremendous growth of the Internet has escalated bandwidth demands from Florida schools and increased management and operational costs. In order to support the Internet needs of Florida schools it is necessary to outsource these services to maximize quality of services and future growth. Through the outsourcing of FIRN, DOE will be able to add additional E-rate funding to meet the bandwidth demands through outsourcing of this service.

Presently DOE owns the equipment and is the responsible party for telecommunications circuits that define the network. Currently there are 21 full-time and 6 part-time employees that support the Network Operations Center, billing and the help desk of FIRN.

Content Filtering and caching servers are located at each gateway node. The content filtering being offered to FIRN customers is under a previously negotiated Contract. There are approximately 50 dial-up hubs supporting 1,183 dial-up lines scattered throughout the State providing daily Internet connectivity to teachers and students around the State. A Network Operations Center is located in Tallahassee where the network is presently being monitored. Additional servers are located in the DOE providing common services to the end users.

Supporting Documentation Included: See Attached Spreadsheet

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