



THE HUB

The Alabama Supercomputer Authority Newsletter

ASA FILES SECOND E-RATE APPLICATION FOR FY2020

On September 16, 2020 the FCC announced the opening of a 2nd FY2020 E-rate filing window. This second filing window allowed schools to request additional E-rate funding to address the increased on-campus bandwidth needs due to COVID-19. ASA emailed the Technology Coordinators on September 18, 2020, notifying them of the opening of the filing window and informing them to contact ASA as soon as possible for any additional bandwidth needs for this second application. Although this was a short filing window, with the cooperation of our Technology Coordinators and assistance from our E-rate Consultant, Funds for Learning, ASA successfully filed our FY2020 2nd E-rate Application on Friday, October 16, 2020 on behalf of nineteen school districts in the state of Alabama. The filing window closed on October 16, 2020.

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K12 FIREWALL UPGRADES MOVING AHEAD

In October 2020 it was announced that ASA had been approved to receive CARES Act funds to provide a Next Generation Palo Alto Firewall to K12 school systems that received managed classic firewall services from ASA but did not currently have a Next Generation Firewall. The Next Generation Firewalls are a much needed resource for LEAs to provide increased cyber security capabilities due to new demands caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, growing Internet bandwidth demand, and mobility of devices.

The ASA Network and Net Services teams put together a methodical process to get these devices installed in an efficient and expedient manner and we are very excited to report that the Next Generation Firewalls have been shipped to K12 client sites with all but 16 installed. We expect to start moving these into the Panorama management tool as soon as its configuration is completed.



Notes From Nichole

Nichole Gipson

Program Administrator, Member Services

CONSORTIUM E-RATE ANNOUNCEMENTS

ASA recently emailed the FY2021 Consortium E-rate Announcement and Letter of Agency (LOA) forms to both schools and libraries. The Announcement provides an overview of the base level

FY2020 FORM 479 AND CIPA AGREEMENT

ASA would like to express our thanks to the Technology Coordinators and Librarians for completing and submitting the E-rate FY2020 Form 479 and CIPA Agreement. We understand that you have extremely busy schedules in taking care of your students, patrons in fellow staff members, so we truly value your time.

If you have not submitted the Form 479 and/or CIPA Agreement, please click the applicable link BELOW for access to the form. You may email completed forms to docs@asc.edu or fax them to 334-242-0637.

services that ASA will provide to your school or library during E-rate Funding Year 2021 (July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022). The Announcement also states that ASA will collect an LOA from each school or library participating in our Consortium. The LOA authorizes ASA to include your school or library in our E-rate application. If you have not submitted an LOA to ASA and would like to participate in our State E-rate Consortium, please click on the applicable link BELOW for access to the form. Please email completed forms to docs@asc.edu or fax them to 334-242-0637.

If you are interested in receiving quotes for additional bandwidth or if you have additional school or library sites that you wish to have added to our E-rate application, please email your requests to Tyler Carr at tcarr@asc.edu.

[FORM 479
w/ Instructions](#)

[CIPA FORM
w/ Instructions](#)

[K12
Letter of Agency](#)

[Library
Letter of Agency](#)

LIBRARY MEET AND GREETS UNDERWAY

This year the Alabama Supercomputer Authority partnered with the Alabama Public Library Service to showcase the importance of our work for education in the State of Alabama. In order to inform the public, ASA has traveled the state to share with legislators, local elected officials, individual library boards and their patrons the benefits of this great effort.

In 2019, the Alabama legislature tasked ASA to work with the public libraries to increase bandwidth and expand broadband access to their parking lots. This initiative, intended to help the rural regions of Alabama, has provided a much-needed benefit for those students and individuals that use the libraries' Wi-Fi to complete homework and fill out job applications, unemployment claims, as well as various forms required to obtain social security benefits. ASA's work with the public libraries will continue to ensure that those in the rural areas of the state continue to receive the quality education that Alabama provides its students.

ASA and public libraries have hosted legislative meet-and-greets thus far at these locations:

- Luverne Public Library with Sen. Will Barfoot (R-Montgomery) and Rep. Chris Sells (R-Greenville).
- Hayneville Public Library with Rep. Kelvin Lawrence (D-Hayneville)
- Athens Public library with Sen. Tom Butler (R-Huntsville) and Rep. Danny Crawford (R-Athens)
- Cullman Public Library with Sen. Garlan Gudger (R-Cullman) and Rep. Randall Shedd (R-Fairview)
- Alabaster Public Library with Sen. Cam Ward (R-Alabaster)
- Horseshoe Bend Public Library with Rep. Ed Oliver (R-Alexander City)
- Wetumpka Public Library with Rep. Mike Holmes (R-Wetumpka)
- Decatur Public Library with Chairman of the Senate Finance and Taxation-Education Committee Sen. Arthur Orr (R-Decatur)
- Tallassee Public Library with Rep. Ed Oliver (R-Alexander City) and Rep. Mike Holmes (R-Wetumpka)
- Chilton-Clanton Public Library with Sen. Cam Ward (R-Alabaster) and Rep. Vann Smith (R-Billingsley)
- Brewton and Atmore Public Libraries with Chairman of the Senate General Fund Committee Sen. Greg Albritton (R-Atmore) and Rep. Alan Baker (R-Brewton)

ASA, along with the public libraries, will continue to host these legislative events to highlight this work and the continued support of Alabama's legislators.



The Chilton/Clanton Public Library celebrated its partnership with the Alabama Supercomputer Authority by hosting a visit with state elected officials and community leaders in October, 2020.

(PHOTO COURTESY OF JOYANNA LOVE/ THE CLANTON ADVERTISER)



Cullman County libraries celebrate fiber internet connections with visit from a prestigious group of guests on August 14, 2020.

From Left to right are (front) Debra Wallace, Josie Harrington and Sharon Townson, (middle) Nancy Pack, Randall Shedd, Millie Freeman and Renee Welsh, (back) Cary Hill, David Ivey, Garlan Gudger, Garry Marchman, Jamelle Dimbo, Walter Overby and Tanya Allcorn.

(PHOTO COURTESY OF HEATHER MANN / THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE)

Welcome

New ASA Employees



ASA's newest employees, (left) Beth Edwards and (right) Cary Hill

ASA is pleased to announce the recent hiring of two new employees to the Montgomery Business Office. Beth Edwards and Cary Hill started with ASA on October 1st and are already proving to be valuable team members.

Beth joined the staff as Accountant in the Accounting Department. She graduated from Troy University in

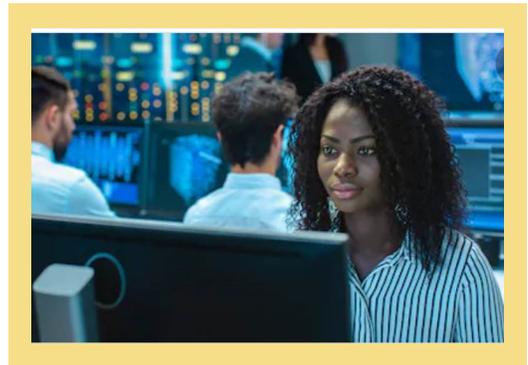
Montgomery with a Bachelor of Science Business Administration degree. She brings 16 years of accounting experience with her to ASA.

Cary Hill joined the ASA team as Director of Governmental Affairs. Cary received his Master of Public Administration degree from Jacksonville State University and brings 13 years of experience in governmental affairs experience to ASA.



K12 CYBER SUPPORT SERVICES UPDATE

Alabama Supercomputer Authority is very excited to announce details of the new K12 Cyber Support Program. Building on the network and cyber security services that have been provided to ASA clients in the past, we have developed a Security Operations Center (SOC) staffed by three full-time Security Analysts and two dedicated Network Engineers. The SOC staff are supported by ASA Systems and Network staff as needed.



Services provided include external vulnerability scans, firewall rule analysis and updates to support security best practices, and monitoring firewall logs for malicious traffic and Indicators of Compromise. Our SOC Team is already having great success in identifying potentially compromised systems and working with Technology Directors to track down those threats. Firewall reviews are another critical function to ensure the rules are up to date with changes in internal systems and to adopt an improved security posture against current cyber threats.

The SOC Team looks forward to working with Technology Directors to improve cyber security in the schools and throughout the ASA network.