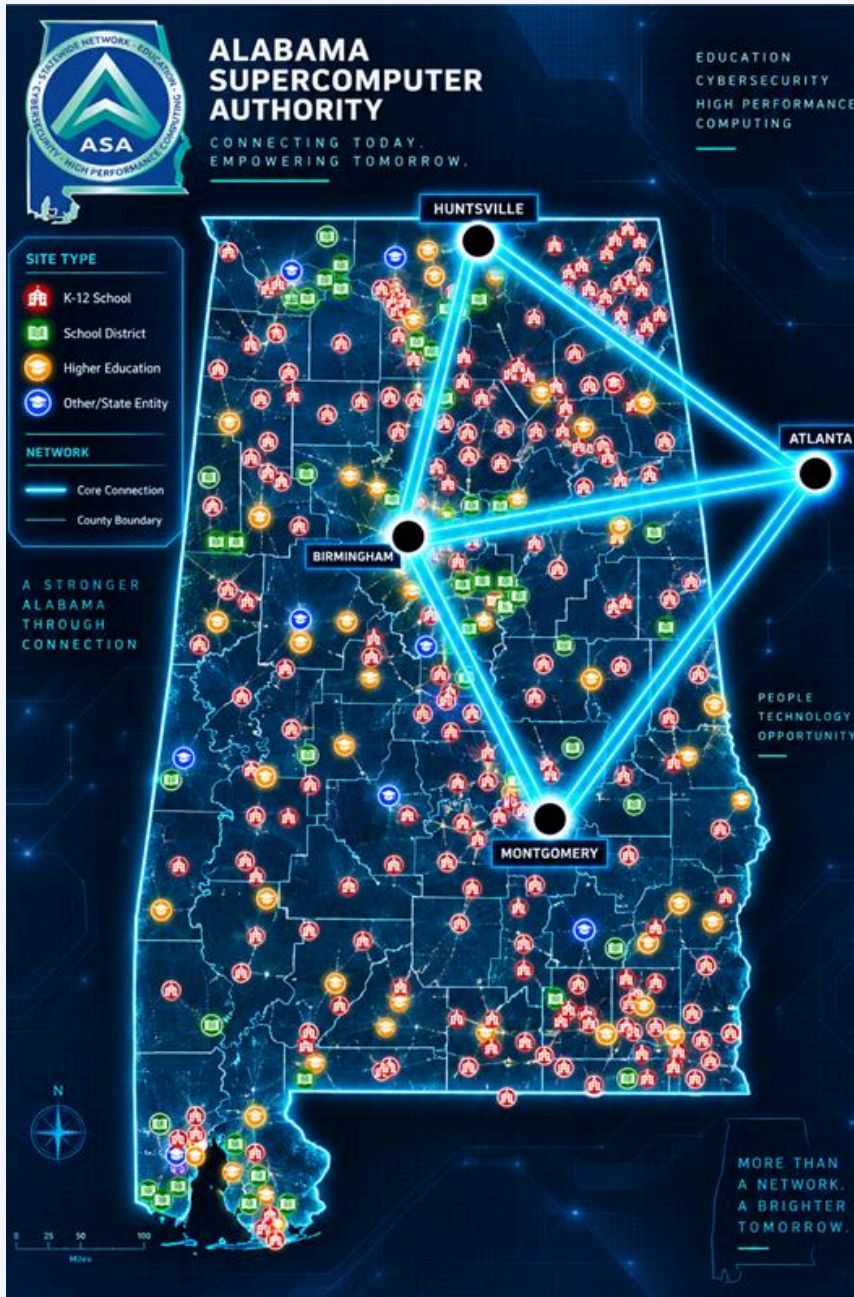


The HUB

The Alabama Supercomputer Authority Newsletter

Project Elevate Update



AREN 2 Network

Phase 1 of Elevate is almost complete! We have connected close to 500 sites to the new Alabama Research Network 2 (AREN2). Our Systems and Network teams have worked many hours to ensure that our consortium members are up and running with reliable internet service.

We are moving into and preparing for Phase 2 member installations. We are also working with Phase 1 members to transition their firewall and VPN services.

Many thanks to each and every ASA employee who has contributed to the continued success of Project Elevate!

The Elevate Project is transforming the way ASA supports our consortium members, and we're excited about what's ahead!

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Security Operations Center

The Security Operations Center (SOC) monitors for cyber threats twenty-four hours a day. Our team continuously monitors for security threats and activity that could impact our members.

Our SOC combines powerful security technologies with experienced cybersecurity analysts to identify and respond to potential threats.

Through our SOC support services, members receive real-time security information and assistance that can be critical to quickly containing and eradicating potential security incidents.



ASA Security Operations Center



E-Rate News

We are excited to announce that we have received Funding Commitment Decision Letters for FY26 for 230 applications, representing more than \$11 million in E-Rate funding. Of these applications, 123 support Phase 1 members of Project Elevate. This is an exciting milestone and a reflection of the hard work and collaboration that goes into each funding year. We sincerely appreciate everyone who helped make this possible.

To prepare for FY27, we will be sending out A Letter of Agency, in early October. This verifies your membership and participation in the consortium. Your executed Letter of Agency supports the filing of the FCC Form 471 for Internet Access Services with the Schools and Libraries Division (SLD). Once you receive, please sign and return at your earliest convenience. Getting this back to us promptly will help ensure we have everything in place and can submit your FY27 application as soon as the filing window opens.

Thank you for your continued partnership and support. We truly appreciate your help in keeping the E-Rate process moving smoothly and look forward to another successful funding year together.

Message from our CEO Debra Wallace

ASA Advocates to Protect E-Rate Funding

The Alabama Supercomputer Authority (ASA) continues to advocate for the preservation of the federal E-Rate program and the critical role it plays in connecting Alabama's schools and libraries.

ASA is submitting comments in response to the FCC's current proceeding to emphasize the importance of continued E-Rate funding for Alabama. Through our statewide consortium, ASA supports approximately 94% of Alabama school systems and 84% of public libraries and annually files E-Rate applications requesting approximately \$17 million in funding.



Alabama's commitment goes beyond federal funding.

ASA uses State appropriations to supplement E-Rate dollars, allowing us to provide reliable Internet and WAN connectivity to schools and libraries across the state at a significantly reduced cost. This partnership between federal E-Rate funding and State investment is especially important for rural and underserved communities.

We will continue to advocate for E-Rate and work to protect this vital funding for Alabama's schools, libraries, students, and communities.



Network News

- Alabama Research Network 2 (AREN2) is the new network that has been created as part of the Elevate project. We currently have over 450 sites connected to the AREN2 network.
- By the end of September, we will be boosting our IP transit capacity to 200G in Birmingham.
- Phase 1 members are having their firewalls and VPN services transitioned over.
- We are proactively updating equipment network-wide to keep performance fast and exposure to security threats low.
- We're wrapping up final details with the business team and are creating work orders for Phase 2

Employee Spotlight

This month's Employee Spotlight shines on David Ivey, a valued member of the ASA team!

David has been a part of the ASA program since December 1993. He previously worked for our service provider before officially joining the ASA team in December 2024. In April of 2025, David was promoted to Chief Information Officer (CIO). David plays a vital role on our Project Elevate team as our Chief Information Officer. His expertise, experience, and knowledge of the ASA program are truly unmatched. His contributions have been instrumental as we continue moving Project Elevate forward.



We asked David: "What three words would you use to describe ASA?"

His response: Excellence. Commitment. Care.

We couldn't agree more! Those three words reflect the dedication and passion that David brings to ASA every day.

Thank you, David, for all of your hard work and contributions to ASA. You are truly appreciated!



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Chicago, IL
Nov 16-20, 2026