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News Release

\$100 Million Broadband Project Will Be Completed In 36 Months Says CDE Chief Information Officer

The \$100 million federal grant to create an affordable broadband network across the state will be completed in 36 months, said Chief Information Officer Dan Domagala.

Announced by Gov. Bill Ritter Jr. on Monday, Sept. 13, the grant will provide underserved schools, libraries, colleges and communities with high-speed Internet access. The project will potentially serve all 178 of the Colorado school districts, as well as the 26 libraries around the state without a broadband connection.

"Given the forthcoming projects that will fill the broadband pipes, we need to be deliberate and strategic in directing the investment of broadband dollars to rapidly build a reliable and cost-effective statewide network," said Domagala.

As previously announced, the project will be led by EAGLE-Net, an intergovernmental agency borne out of the Centennial Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES).

"Right now we're waiting for the federal grant paperwork with the final instructions. The EAGLE-Net team is busy developing revised plans for implementation based on final instructions," said Denise Atkinson-Shorey, chief information officer for EAGLE-Net. "Currently 20 school districts have Eagle-Net connections. We are identifying 'shovel-ready' areas that can be connected quickly, while defining build schedules around weather and geography for other sites."

The project addresses the lack of affordable high-capacity broadband access at many rural and underserved school districts and educational institutions, many of which currently rely on outdated copper-based telecommunications facilities.

The \$100 million grant is funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, which included \$7.2 billion to expand broadband connectivity nationwide.

For more information, contact Mark Stevens, 303-866-3898, or Megan McDermott, 303-866-2334, in the CDE Office of Communications. To sign up for the CDE e-mail news service, please visit <http://www.cde.state.co.us/Communications/index.html>.

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