

What's Happening with MLTI Wifi?

Evolving Context:

- Wifi has been a separate opt-in from the MLTI seat solution since 2013.
- We're not sure that the one-size-fits-all approach of the MLTI wifi offerings meet everyone's needs.
- Districts are asking for more and more customization.
- Some schools end up with multiple wifi systems, since only some of their grade levels are part of MLTI.
- eRate will soon allow for reimbursement for wifi within the building, not just broadband to the outside of the building.

What is happening now?

- The Learning Through Technology Team believes that it is time to explore what approach the state should use to assist schools with acquiring wifi.
- Should the state continue to offer wifi via MLTI, or would a switch to a consortium approach, like we do with NetworkMaine for broadband, be a more effective approach?
- The Learning Through Technology Team has decided not to offer a wifi option as part of 2016 Opt In offerings.

What about grades that participate in the 2016 refresh of 2013 Apple MLTI solutions and had opted-in for wireless networks in 2013?

- They will complete the fourth year of their wifi solution, and have a new wifi offering in 2017.
- Apple will review the district's 2013 Apple MLTI wireless network and, provided that Apple has not already done so prior to the 2016 MLTI refresh, make Apple-determined adjustments to support the network

What about grades that opted-in for wifi in 2014 or 2015?

- There is no change to the wifi program for these cohorts.

What about new grades that opt-in for MLTI for the first time in 2016?

- Schools should contact their MLTI vendor; they will help the school identify a wifi solution.

What happens next?

- The Learning Through Technology Team will convene a wifi design team made up of tech leads and eRate and connectivity experts.
- The Wifi Design Team will think through the challenges and details of a switch from a MLTI wifi offering to a consortium wifi offering.
- They will help the Learning Through Technology Team design an approach to supporting districts with classroom wifi that is practical, doable, useful, and cost-effective.

What is the intent?

- To ensure that districts have a cost-effective wifi offering for their schools in 2017 (and beyond).
- That MSLN will continue to be a part of schools' Internet connectivity.
- To find the most beneficial way to leverage state funding support for wifi in Maine's classrooms.
- To find the most beneficial way to leverage eRate funding support for wifi in Maine's classrooms.