



April 24, 2007

To: Phillip Emer  
Director of Technology  
William and Ida Friday Institute  
1890 Main Campus Drive  
Raleigh, NC 27606

From: Bill Gibson  
Executive Director  
Southwestern Commission  
125 Bonnie Lane  
Sylva, NC 28779

Roger Metcalf  
Executive Director  
Western Region Education Service Alliance (WRESA)  
P.O. Box 1709  
Enka, NC 28728

Phil,

On behalf of the WNC EdNET Partners we are submitting the attached request for assistance to you for your consideration and action.

The WNC EdNET still has some significant unfilled funding gaps. Providing connectivity to the remaining sites and connecting all sites to the redundant ring and of course connecting to the state network are critical needs. State assistance is hereby requested to address the transport, fiber and equipment (electronics) needs to complete the project.

If you need additional information, you can contact us for general project information. If you need technical information, we may need to refer you to others such as Leonard Winchester or Andy Gibson. Your consideration of this request is greatly appreciated.

P.S. If you need a hard copy of this application, contact Bob Byrd ([bbyrd@wresa.org](mailto:bbyrd@wresa.org)).

Cc: Executive Committee  
Technology Coordinators  
Charlie Pittman  
Jane Smith-Patterson

**A Request for State Assistance  
For the Purpose of Completing the WNC EdNET Configuration**

**Submitted on behalf of WNC EdNET Partners by**

**The Southwestern Commission  
and  
The Western Region Education Service Alliance (WRESA)**

**Fiscal Agent – Grantee:  
Southwestern Commission  
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## I. Background/Organizational Structure

The WNC EdNET project is a project to collaboratively assist the schools and colleges in **Jackson, Macon, Clay, Cherokee, Graham and Swain Counties** to procure and use upgradeable high capacity broadband technology configurations and services to enhance learning, professional development, and organization administration, and to open up learning opportunities not currently available or imagined.

The WNC EdNET objectives are:

- 1) To establish a collaborative of partners for the purpose of collaboratively enhancing the development and use of technology as a tool for improving learning opportunities
- 2) To facilitate procurement of broadband infrastructure by participating partners' central and field sites
- 3) To facilitate capacity building and use of broadband technology for the enhancement of teaching and learning
- 4) To help export the WNC EdNET model to other potential adopting sites.

The major focus of WNC EdNET is to enhance learning through technology applications. Learning configurations using technology will be broadened in many ways. The Technology Applications Committee is providing leadership in this area. A major "state of the art" Technology Applications Conference is planned for the region's instructional leaders and personnel in October 2007. When complete, the project will permit area students to compete at or above par with their counterparts globally. In effect, learning opportunities not currently available or imagined will be accessible by the target students.

The NEEDS of the WNC EdNET members being addressed, in order are:

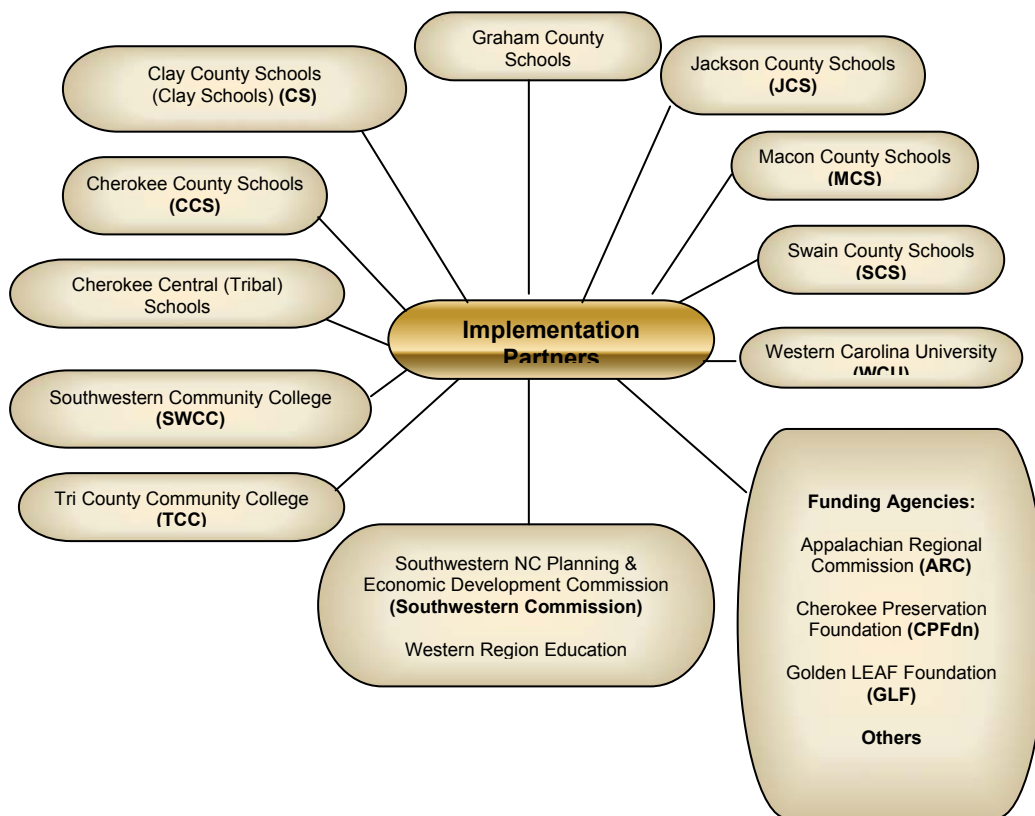
- 1) Laterals within each school district (stars)
- 2) Transport to the internet
- 3) Internet service provisioning
- 4) District to district connectivity (ring)
- 5) Connectivity to state networks

These needs are to be addressed in a way that incorporates the best network design, considers upgrade flexibility, uses an open bid process, fosters competition, and minimizes recurring costs.

The WNC EdNET concept has been under development for several years. Multi agency planning, collaboration and organization resulted in the Western Region Education Service Alliance (WRESA) and the Southwestern Planning District

Commission (RegionA) in 2005 being requested by funding sources, school and college partners to coordinate, manage and build on an ongoing regional initiative which began several years earlier under the leadership of school and college leaders. WNC EdNET was created with the Executive Committee, Technology Coordinators, Technology Consulting Partners, and the Technology Advisory Committee serving as command/control and operational entities. Specifically, the project grantee is the **Southwestern Commission** which partners with the **Western Region Education Service Alliance (WRESA)** to collaboratively manage the grants. An **Executive Steering Committee** composed of the CEOs of the 12 partners plus a Golden LEAF representative governs the project. **Partner Technology Coordinators** are primarily responsible for implementing and helping to evaluate the program. A **Technology Applications Committee** provides leadership in use of high speed technologies and applications. Consulting Partners from other agencies and organizations such as ERC, e-NC Authority and NCDPI provide technical leadership and guidance. See Exhibit I depiction of Implementation Partners.

**Exhibit 1**



The development of a 501 (c) (3) organization WNC EdNET Inc. is currently underway. Funding received through this request for assistance will be managed through the current WNC EdNET structure and then possibly be transferred to the 501 (c) (3) organization once it is operational.

The committees are convened on a need basis. The Technology Coordinators meet frequently, approximately once a month. The other committees meet less frequently. The project managers (Southwestern Commission/WRESA) meet on a very frequent basis to average about once per week.

The WNC EdNET organization was successful in obtaining set-aside Golden LEAF Foundation funding (\$2,000,000) in 2005 and it subsequently obtained funds from the Cherokee Preservation Foundation (\$1,000,000), and the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) (\$547,500).

Significant other resources have been received or pledged by the Carlton Family, the NC Rural Center, the Cherokee Preservation Foundation, the Southwestern Community College and others. Extensive volunteer assistance is provided by the project negotiator and the project engineer.

While WNC EdNET has attracted substantial funding and resources, additional funding is needed for connecting the schools/college sites not yet under contract. Funding is needed to connect all sites to the ring and the state networks. These needs will be detailed later in the “request for assistance.”

## **II. Technical Operations – Management Plan**

Major premises are built into the WNC EdNET Model. They include:

- Local ownership of fiber
- Local control of critical elements such as network configuration and creativity flexibility for applications
- Local control of maintenance services
- Local control of expansion
- The higher upfront investment in areas which will lower the continuing re-occurring and operating costs.
- The promotion of competition in order to lower costs.
- WNC EdNET will operate for the expressed purpose of serving teaching/learning needs in this service area.
- Leverage E-rate for ISP services and future equipment upgrades.

### Management Plan

The WNC EdNET management plan has both command/control and 24/7 security and operational elements. Currently the Southwestern Commission and the WRESA are jointly providing programmatic and fiscal management services to WNC EdNET. A 501 (c) (3) corporation is being formed which will assume management of WNC EdNET

after the current grant cycles are completed. There will be a period of time of parallel 501 (c) (3) and Southwestern/WRESA management. The major elements of the final network management plan will include:

- The configuration and maintenance of a 10GB connection to all sites. 10 Gb along ring, 1 Gb from schools to LEA.
- Sustain a 99.999% reliability.
- Calculation method for each district’s share to pay (most likely enrollment based).
- Leverage but not depend on e-rate.
- Focus on upfront capital outlay to eliminate or minimize recurring and upgrading costs.

The final Network Management plan will require approval by the Executive Committee.

**III. Accomplishments/Gaps/Needs**

The preponderance of school sites are already under contract for provision of infrastructure except for 4 school sites in Cherokee County, the Highlands site in Macon County and the 15 college/university field sites. The following exhibit provides a depiction of sites already under contracts for infrastructure provision and sites where funds are needed to provide broadband infrastructure. Significant funding is needed for the provision of electronics necessary for making the fiber transport systems functional and upgradeable in all sites.

**IV. Sites (locations and costs) with funded and requested funding for transport and electronics infrastructure.**

A School Sites By County	B Funded Infrastructure	Infrastructure not Funded Amounts Needed		
		C Fiber/ Transport	D Electronics	E (C+D) Total
		\$	\$	\$
Cherokee County Schools	60,707.18		176,490.20	176,490.20
Cherokee County Schools (NOC)	10,140.36			

<b>Andrews Elementary</b>	<b>41,130.44</b>			
<b>A School Sites By County</b>	<b>B Funded Infrastructure</b>	<b>Infrastructure not Funded Amounts Needed</b>		
		<b>C Fiber/ Transport</b>	<b>D Electronics</b>	<b>E (C+D) Total</b>
		\$	\$	\$
<b>Andrews High</b>	<b>55,578.91</b>			
<b>Andrews Middle</b>	<b>58,025.00</b>			
<b>Hiwassee Dam Union</b>	<b>250,151.96</b>			
<b>Marble Elementary</b>	<b>16,783.20</b>			
<b>Martins Creek (Interdependent)</b>		<b>175,051.21</b>		<b>175,051.21</b>
<b>Mountain Youth Center (Interdependent)</b>		<b>185,587.34</b>		<b>185,587.34</b>
<b>Murphy Elementary</b>	<b>55,320.61</b>			
<b>Murphy High</b>	<b>60,707.18</b>			
<b>Murphy Middle</b>	<b>60,707.18</b>			
<b>Peachtree Elementary</b>		<b>153,650.40</b>		<b>153,650.40</b>
<b>Ranger Elementary</b>	<b>106,497.84</b>			
<b>The Learning Center (Charter School)</b>	<b>51,143.67</b>			
<b>Clay County Schools</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>113,407.20</b>	<b>113,407.20</b>
<b>Hayesville Elementary</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>		
<b>Hayesville High</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>		
<b>Hayesville Middle</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>		
<b>Jackson County Schools</b>			<b>142,344.80</b>	<b>142,344.80</b>
<b>Cullowhee Valley School</b>	<b>64,832.03</b>			
<b>Fairview Elementary</b>	<b>4,477.33</b>			
<b>Blue Ridge School</b>	<b>65,913.06</b>			
<b>Jackson County Hub</b>	<b>849.05</b>			
<b>Summit Charter (Charter School)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>		

<b>Scotts Creek Elementary</b>	<b>78,823.28</b>			
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<b>A School Sites By County</b>	<b>B Funded Infrastructure</b>	<b>Infrastructure not Funded Amounts Needed</b>		
		<b>C Fiber/ Transport</b>	<b>D Electronics</b>	<b>E (C+D) Total</b>
		\$	\$	\$
<b>Smokey Mountain Elementary</b>	<b>51,260.50</b>			
<b>Smokey Mountain High</b>	<b>4,477.33</b>			
<b>School of Alternatives</b>	<b>30,002.68</b>			
<b>Macon County Schools</b>	<b>237.30</b>		<b>160,088.50</b>	<b>160,088.50</b>
<b>West Macon</b>	<b>21,185.35</b>			
<b>Cullasaja Elementary</b>	<b>117,217.01</b>			
<b>East Franklin</b>	<b>10,304.60</b>			
<b>Franklin High</b>	<b>6,564.43</b>			
<b>Highlands School</b>		<b>387,270.91</b>		<b>387,270.91</b>
<b>Iotla Elementary</b>	<b>132,083.61</b>			
<b>Macon County Middle</b>	<b>23,555.78</b>			
<b>Nantahala School</b>	<b>440,457.13</b>			
<b>South Macon Elementary (paid locally)</b>	<b>14,264.35</b>			
<b>Union School</b>	<b>146,512.45</b>			
<b>Swain County Schools</b>			<b>120,923.20</b>	<b>120,923.20</b>
<b>Swain County High</b>	<b>46,036.49</b>			
<b>Swain County Middle</b>	<b>43.47</b>			
<b>Swain County East Elementary</b>	<b>56,308.33</b>			
<b>Swain County West Elementary</b>	<b>43,551.74</b>			
<b>5 Additional Locations (Paid locally)</b>	<b>12,417.24</b>			
<b>Mountain Discovery (Charter School)</b>	<b>31,781.26</b>			
<b>Graham County Schools</b>			<b>120,252.20</b>	<b>120,252.20</b>

A School Sites By County	B Funded Infrastructure	Infrastructure not Funded Amounts Needed		
		C Fiber/ Transport	D Electronics	E (C+D) Total
		\$	\$	\$
Robbinsville Elementary	8,500.85			
Robbinsville High	232,356.49			
Robbinsville Middle	0	0		0
Swain County (Tribal)				
Cherokee Tribal Schools	2,764.42		115,232.30	115,232.30
Cherokee High	26,567.19			
Cherokee Elementary	4,367.58			
Cherokee Middle	2,131.14			
Future Cherokee School	57,125.95			
Cherokee IT Dept.	3,095.43			
Charter Schools			4,059.00	4,059.00
<b>Subtotal – Schools</b>	<b>2,566,958.38</b>	<b>901,559.86</b>	<b>952,797.40</b>	<b>1,854,357.26</b>
<b>College Sites</b>				
TCCC Murphy			89,328.20	
TCCC TeleCenter			834.00	
TCCC Andrews			834.00	
TCCC Marble			834.00	
SCC Cherokee			834.00	
WCU Cherokee			834.00	
TCCC Hayesville			834.00	
TCCC Robbinsville			834.00	
SCC Cashiers			834.00	
SCC Webster			89,328.20	
WCU Cullowhee			89,328.20	

A School Sites By County	B Funded Infrastructure	Infrastructure not Funded Amounts Needed		
		C Fiber/ Transport	D Electronics	E (C+D) Total
		\$	\$	\$
SCC (Future) Franklin			834.00	
SCC Public Training Franklin			834.00	
SCC (Current) Franklin			834.00	
SCC Almond			834.00	
<b>College Sub-Totals</b>		\$ 777,660.79	277,992.60	1,055,653.39
<b>Totals</b>		\$1,679,220.65	1,230,790.00	2,910,010.65
<b>Less Funds on Hand</b> <b>(ARC - \$250,000; Golden LEAF - \$367,000)</b>			<b>617,000</b>	<b>617,000.00</b>
		\$1,679,220.65	613,790.00	2,293,010.65

**Installation/Electronics**

**\$40,000.00**

**Maintenance/Electronics**

**15,000.00**

## WNC EdNET Pricing Worksheet

ITEM	Cherokee		Clay		Tribal		Graham		Jackson		Macon		Swain		Charter Schools (3)		SCC		TCCC		WCU		WRESA/SWComm		Total Quantity	Total Item Cost			
	Cost Each	#	Cost	#	Cost	#	Cost	#	Cost	#	Cost	#	Cost	#	Cost	#	Cost	#	Cost	#	Cost	#	Cost	#	Cost				
<b>Electronics - Ring and Stars</b>																													
Cisco SONET 15454 (OC192) (included maint 1yr)	\$ 88,494.20	1	\$ 88,494.20	1	\$ 88,494.20	1	\$ 88,494.20	1	\$ 88,494.20	1	\$ 88,494.20	1	\$ 88,494.20	1	\$ 88,494.20	0	\$ -	1	\$ 88,494.20	1	\$ 88,494.20	1	\$ 88,494.20	0	\$ -	10	\$ 884,942.00		
Cisco WS-3750G-12S Core Switch (1 per sch district)	\$ 6,666.30	1	\$ 6,666.30	1	\$ 6,666.30	1	\$ 6,666.30	1	\$ 6,666.30	1	\$ 6,666.30	1	\$ 6,666.30	1	\$ 6,666.30	0	\$ -	0	\$ -	0	\$ -	0	\$ -	0	\$ -	0	\$ -	7	\$ 46,664.10
Cisco WS-C3560-24TS-E Edge Switch (1 per school)	\$ 2,716.90	13	\$ 35,319.70	3	\$ 8,150.70	2	\$ 5,433.80	3	\$ 8,150.70	7	\$ 19,018.30	10	\$ 27,169.00	3	\$ 8,150.70	0	\$ -	0	\$ -	0	\$ -	0	\$ -	0	\$ -	0	\$ -	41	\$ 111,392.90
GE SFP, LC connector LXVH transceiver (sch x 2)	\$ 497.50	26	\$ 12,935.00	6	\$ 2,985.00	4	\$ 1,990.00	6	\$ 2,985.00	14	\$ 6,965.00	20	\$ 9,960.00	6	\$ 2,985.00	0	\$ -	0	\$ -	0	\$ -	0	\$ -	0	\$ -	0	\$ -	82	\$ 40,795.00
Patch Panel	\$ 125.00	13	\$ 1,625.00	1	\$ 125.00	4	\$ 500.00	4	\$ 500.00	7	\$ 875.00	11	\$ 1,375.00	5	\$ 625.00	3	\$ 375.00	0	\$ -	0	\$ -	0	\$ -	0	\$ -	0	\$ -	48	\$ 6,000.00
Core Panel	\$ 550.00	1	\$ 550.00	1	\$ 550.00	1	\$ 550.00	1	\$ 550.00	1	\$ 550.00	1	\$ 550.00	1	\$ 550.00	0	\$ -	0	\$ -	0	\$ -	0	\$ -	0	\$ -	0	\$ -	7	\$ 3,850.00
Pigtails	\$ 10.00	56	\$ 560.00	8	\$ 80.00	20	\$ 200.00	20	\$ 200.00	32	\$ 320.00	48	\$ 480.00	24	\$ 240.00	6	\$ 60.00	14	\$ 140.00	12	\$ 120.00	4	\$ 40.00	0	\$ -	244	\$ 2,440.00		
HandHolds/Egress	\$ 450.00	14	\$ 6,300.00	2	\$ 900.00	5	\$ 2,250.00	5	\$ 2,250.00	8	\$ 3,600.00	12	\$ 5,400.00	6	\$ 2,700.00	3	\$ 1,350.00	7	\$ 3,150.00	6	\$ 2,700.00	2	\$ 900.00	0	\$ -	70	\$ 31,500.00		
Fiber Patch Cables	\$ 28.00	26	\$ 728.00	8	\$ 224.00	8	\$ 224.00	8	\$ 224.00	14	\$ 392.00	22	\$ 616.00	10	\$ 280.00	0	\$ -	14	\$ 392.00	12	\$ 336.00	4	\$ 112.00	0	\$ -	126	\$ 3,528.00		
Backup Power	\$ 5,000.00	1	\$ 5,000.00	0	\$ -	1	\$ 5,000.00	1	\$ 5,000.00	1	\$ 5,000.00	1	\$ 5,000.00	1	\$ 5,000.00	0	\$ -	0	\$ -	0	\$ -	0	\$ -	0	\$ -	0	\$ -	6	\$ 30,000.00
Fiber Converter (Fiber->RJ45)	\$ 450.00		\$ -		\$ -		\$ -		\$ -		\$ -		\$ -	0	\$ -	3	\$ 1,350.00	0	\$ -	0	\$ -	0	\$ -	0	\$ -	0	\$ -	3	\$ 1,350.00
Termination reimbursement (mileage, etc)	\$ 308.00	14	\$ 4,312.00	4	\$ 1,232.00	3	\$ 924.00	4	\$ 1,232.00	8	\$ 2,464.00	11	\$ 3,388.00	4	\$ 1,232.00	3	\$ 924.00	7	\$ 2,156.00	6	\$ 1,848.00	2	\$ 616.00	0	\$ -	66	\$ 20,328.00		
Core & Edge Installation Programming	\$ 1,000.00	14	\$ 14,000.00	4	\$ 4,000.00	3	\$ 3,000.00	4	\$ 4,000.00	8	\$ 8,000.00	11	\$ 11,000.00	4	\$ 4,000.00	0	\$ -	0	\$ -	0	\$ -	0	\$ -	0	\$ -	0	\$ -	48	\$ 48,000.00
<b>Total Cost Per District</b>			\$ 176,490.20		\$ 113,407.20		\$ 115,232.30		\$ 120,252.20		\$ 142,344.80		\$ 160,088.50		\$ 120,923.20		\$ 4,059.00		\$ 94,332.20		\$ 93,498.20		\$ 90,162.20			<b>TOTAL</b>	\$ 1,230,790.00		
<b>Fiber</b>																													
Star Fiber Contracted			\$ 663,065.76				\$ 96,051.71		\$ 240,857.34		\$ 300,635.26		\$ 898,117.66		\$ 145,940.03		\$ 82,924.93											\$ 2,427,592.69	
Star Fiber to be contracted			\$ 620,786.79										\$ 387,270.91															\$ 1,008,057.70	
College sites and ring																7	360758.41	6	349646.58	2	\$ 67,255.79					15	\$ 777,660.78		
Ring configuration (Murphy to Hayesville)					\$ 121,000.00																						\$ 121,000.00		

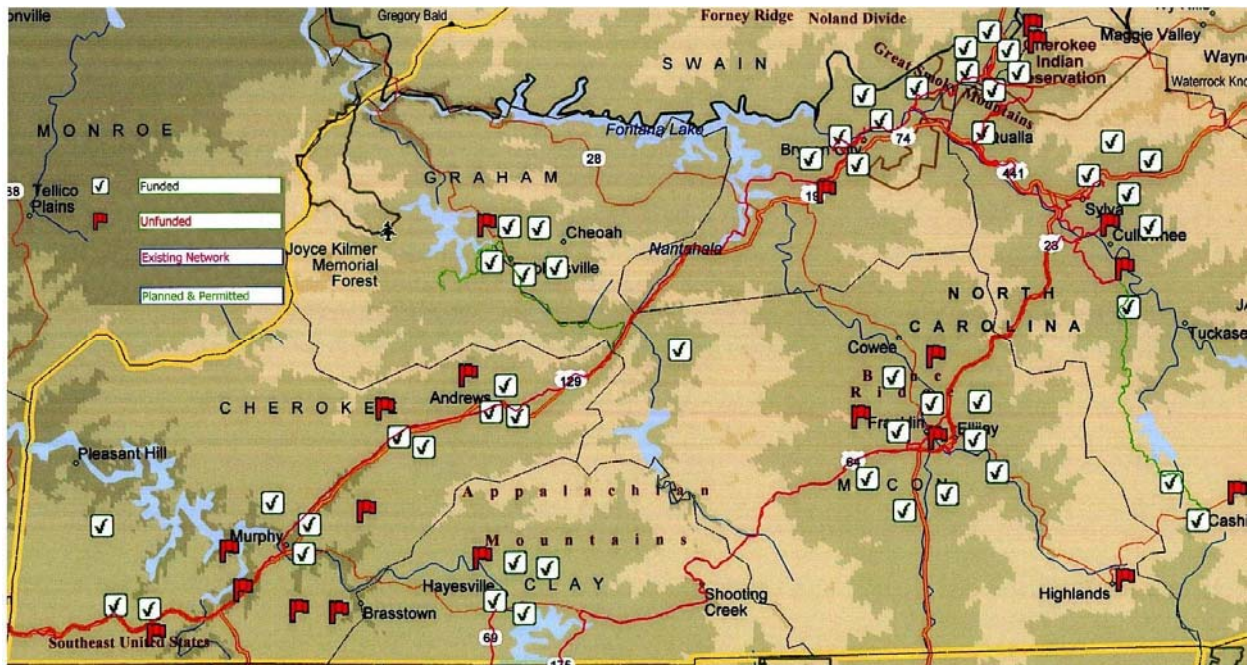
## College Sites / Remainder connectivity

We do not have a la carte pricing on the college sites. We have reason to believe that requesting a la carte pricing will result in a significant undesirable price increase. Once funding is achieved for the four schools in Cherokee County, Highlands in Macon County, and the Murphy to Hayesville link, the remaining contract costs is \$777,660.78.

County	Site	Address	City	Mileage
<b>SCC (7)</b>	SCC Cashiers Center	217 Frank Allen Road	Cashiers	25.64
	SCC Cherokee Center	72 Boys Club Loop Road	Cherokee	0.71
	SCC Franklin Center	23 Macon Avenue	Franklin	1.59
	SCC Future Macon Campus	Siler Road	Franklin	2.86
	SCC Public Safety Training Center	222 Industrial Park Loop	Franklin	2.61
	SCC Swain Center	60 Almond School Road	Bryson City	6.21
	SCC Sylva Campus	441 College Dr.	Sylva	3.56
			<b>Total</b>	<b>43.18</b>
<b>TCCC (6)</b>	TCCC Graham Center	145 Moose Branch Road	Robbinsville	0.09
	Tri-County Andrews Center	50 High School Drive	Andrews	6.29
	Tri-County Community College	4600 E US Highway 64	Murphy	15.97
	TriCounty Telecenter	26 Anderson Street	Hayesville	3.53
	Tri-County Telecenter	4601 E US Highway 64	Murphy	15.97
	Future Tri-County Machinist Program	2415 Airport Road	Marble	0
			<b>Total</b>	<b>41.85</b>
<b>WCU (2)</b>	WCU	220 Killian Bldg	Cullowhee	7.34
	WCU Cherokee Center	1594 Acquoni Road	Cherokee	0.71
			<b>Total</b>	<b>8.05</b>
		<b>Grand</b>	<b>93.08</b>	

The following map depicts relative geographic positions of the contracted and sites not under contract.

### Exhibit 3



#### Connection of sites to the Redundant Fiber Optic Ring

##### Description of the Ring

This is a 10 node ring. The nodes are the seven school districts and the three college/university main campuses. At each node will be a Cisco 15454 SONET Multiservice Provisioning Platform.

##### Methods of connecting to the Ring

Each Cisco 15454 box will have an ML series and CE series card installed for connecting to the ring.

The costs to connect to the ring are the cost to get to the physical location of any one of the 15454 boxes.

#### Connection of WNC EdNET to the State Network

Obviously the schools in the WNC EdNET coverage area would want to be connected to a state public school network. The WNC EdNET configuration would be a very cost effective viable option for the state network to reach the schools west of Balsam Gap.

The state network designated agency/group will be invited to connect to WNC EdNET at any suitable WNC EdNET SONET Node or at a suitable designated neutral co-location facility. It is anticipated that the state will pay the costs associated with such connections.

Resolving the concerns State of North Carolina officials have concerning the Georgia link of the WNC EdNET ring.

Since a portion of the proposed WNC EdNET ring runs south of the North Carolina border in North Georgia, state officials (from North Carolina) have requested that the WNC EdNET reconfigure the ring so that state funds would not be spent in Georgia to help maintain part of the ring. Purchasing a 20-year IRU is more economical at this time than the costs of additional equipment and co-location in Georgia.

Project planners have chosen the following process and configuration to alleviate the stated concerns.

In order to keep WNC EdNET ring fiber use entirely within the state of North Carolina, the project planners considered a fiber build/procurement of existing fiber from Murphy to Hayesville. Quotes for this build/procurement were requested from the two major vendors already involved with WNC EdNET infrastructure deployment. The costs for the Murphy – Hayesville 20 year IRU fiber link will be approximately \$121,000.00.

**V. Summary Budget Request by Category**

A.	Amount needed for fiber/transport (Cost to place remaining sites under contract)	\$ <u>1,679,220.65</u>
B.	Amount needed for electronics (All sites)	\$ <u>613,790.00</u>
C.	Electronics Installation	\$ <u>40,000.00</u>
D.	Electronics 1-year Maintenance	\$ <u>15,000.00</u>
E.	Cost to connect all sites to the Ring	\$ <u>Included in Electronics</u>
F.	Cost to connect to State Network	\$ <u>State Covers Cost</u>

G.	Cost to reconfigure the Georgia Link	\$ <u>121,000.00</u>
H.	Coordination/Evaluation/Office Assistance (WRESA)	\$ <u>129,400.53</u>
I.	Accounting/Management/Fiduciary Services (Southwestern Commission)	\$ <u>40,000.00</u>
J.	Consulting fees – legal; engineering	\$ <u>10,000.00</u>
K.	Grand Total of Request	\$ <u>2,648,411.18</u>

Related volunteer and philanthropic contributions

Significant contributions have been committed to support this project to include:

- Leonard Winchester has donated contract negotiation services and will help with the equipment procurement process.
- Andy Gibson has donated fiber-splicing services needed for connecting the respective sites to the fiber transport infrastructure.
- Jim Campbell has donated his services for SONET box installation.
- The Technology Coordinators will maintain the connections from the central office core switch to the respective field sites.
- The Carlton family has donated the fiber link to Cashiers.
- The Southwestern Community College has assisted with providing some fiber for the ring.