



Connecting Illinois



A High Speed Broadband Network built for YOU !

In 2010 the Illinois Century Network (ICN) was awarded a State and Federal grant of \$96M to upgrade and expand. This has resulted in over 2000 miles of fiber optic cable being deployed supporting ultra high speed broadband to schools throughout Illinois. Broadband speeds have increased at least 10x and with fiber optic cable constituting the backbone of the network, virtually unlimited bandwidth is available. As bandwidth demands from schools increase, ICN is there to support the school.

An Education Focus

The ICN network, its architecture, support personnel and services are all focused on serving schools with the best possible ultra high speed broadband. For example, our monitoring and management of customer premise equipment at the school location ensures Quality of Service for high priority traffic from the schools to the network. The organization of support personnel in 9 Regional Technology Centers throughout the State ensures a local support presence dedicated to serving schools. Each center has a wealth of local knowledge and expertise that is available to schools. Regional Technology Center staff act as trusted advisors to school IT Directors. Connection to the ICN allows access to Internet2 – the research and education network providing access to education content not available on the public Internet. ICN is the sole designated network in Illinois providing connection to Internet2, which is free from commercial traffic and dedicated to only education and research traffic.

Why Choose Us

The Illinois Century Network is the State network designed specifically for Illinois schools. With the unlimited bandwidth available to schools through ICN, and the education content on Internet 2 only available via ICN, connection to ICN ensures Illinois students are on the same technology playing field as not only the best in the USA but the best in the world. Connection to ICN best prepares Illinois students to effectively compete in the world market place and provides the best foundation for learning. To get connected to ICN, contact your local Regional Technology office, numbers are listed at www.illinois.net or contact the number below.



Illinois Century Network



ICN provides access to Internet2

Internet2 is a worldwide high speed network designed exclusively for the research and education community. It was established by US universities in 1996 and serves K-12 schools, universities and colleges. Only research and education content is allowed on the network. There is no commercial traffic to clog up the network. To ensure the integrity of Internet2 and maintain its quality of service, the ICN is designated as the sole network in Illinois to connect K-12 schools to Internet2. Commercial Internet providers are not able to directly connect to Internet2. Connecting to Internet2 provides access to education content not available on the public Internet, and provides access to participate in projects only available to education institutions connected to Internet2.

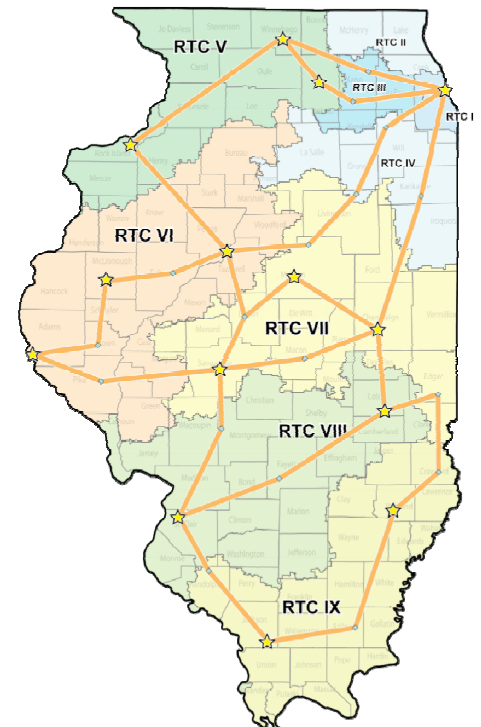
QoS

Best in Class Quality of Service

Quality of Service means when the network becomes congested, due to traffic being pushed into the network, then we prioritize traffic according to importance. For example, the data packets that transport a video call are more important to be sent on time than data packets associated with an email. Ensuring customers traffic has quality of service means managing the customer premise equipment at the school premises and managing the equipment within the network. Quality of Service means prioritizing your traffic according to your needs. Our RTC staff will work with you to prioritize your traffic.

Regional Technology Centers

Joining ICN gives you access to a wealth of experience and knowledge from the ICN Regional Technology Centers (RTC). Each Regional Technology Center is a source of expertise focused on education technology and local broadband knowledge. There are nine regions in Illinois each with a designated office staffed by local personnel. Each office supports the schools in their region with their broadband technology needs. The ICN RTC team has a total of 24 staff each dedicated to helping Illinois students advance through technology. The RTC team is backed up by the resources of our Network Services team and the Communications Management Center, our 24/7/365 monitoring and support center. Your initial contact with RTC staff will be when you want to get connected to ICN. RTC staff will guide you through the initial connection process, ensuring a smooth connection process for you.



Your Next Step !

Contact your local Regional Technology Center about connecting to the ICN. We'll guide you through the process and work with you and the last mile provider to get connected. RTC staff have relationships with all the last mile providers in your area, and most likely, the last mile provider is already connected to ICN, meaning to get you connected should be a breeze! Find your local RTC office contact details at www.illinois.net and don't hesitate to call us. Or you can call the number below.