

E-RATE PROGRAM OVERVIEW

E-rate is the nation's largest education technology funding program for K-12 schools and libraries ensuring affordable access to telecommunications and Internet. Funding is provided in the form of "discounts" for eligible services based on the income level of your students, which is usually derived from the number of students who qualify for free or reduced price lunches.

RECENT CHANGES

With the release of the Second E-rate Modernization Order, changes were made to ensure schools and libraries have access to high-speed broadband, including:

- Increasing the total amount of funding available for broadband to \$3.9 billion
- Permitting self-construction of high-speed broadband networks
- Equalizing the treatment of lit and dark fiber
- Ability to use a multiple year installment plan to pay for a portion of non-recurring construction costs

E-rate applicants may also receive additional E-rate discounts using the **Nevada Connect Kids Initiative** state matching fund for non-recurring special construction costs.

ELIGIBLE SERVICES

Districts may apply for eligible services that fall into the following two categories:

- Connectivity **between** sites
(Category 1 - Internet Access and Wide Area Network)
- Connectivity **within** sites
(Category 2 - Internal Connections)

A full list of eligible services and technology is available on the [USAC website](#) and EducationSuperHighway's [K-12 Upgrade Toolkit](#).

BEST PRACTICES

When applying for E-rate funding, please consider:

- Reading the [E-rate Modernization Orders](#).
- Assessing your current connectivity and planning your network to scale for future digital learning goals in the summer.
- Posting your RFP and Form 470 during the fall in order to give vendors plenty of time to respond to your request(s).
- Visiting EducationSuperHighway's free educational resources, such as webinars and [Compare & Connect K-12](#), available at no cost to help you plan your upgrade
- Using USAC's webinars and guides to assist you during the process.

QUESTIONS?

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