

WHAT IS E-RATE ?

The E-Rate Program, otherwise known as the Schools and Libraries Program, provides discounts to most schools and libraries in the United States on their telecommunications, Internet access, and related services. The program is administered by the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) under the direction of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).



WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?

Call our Client Service Bureau at
1-888-203-8100

Visit our website at
www.usac.org/sl

If you are an existing applicant or are new to the program:

Consider volunteering for our Helping Applicants to Succeed (HATS) Initiative. You can receive one-on-one guidance that is tailored to your specific concerns in person, by phone, or on a video conference.

ABOUT USAC AND THE USF

USAC is an independent, not-for-profit corporation that was created in 1997 by the FCC to administer the Universal Service Fund (USF). The USF is money collected from telecommunications companies dedicated to fulfilling the goals of universal service through four different programs: High Cost, Low Income, Rural Health Care, and Schools and Libraries (E-Rate). The USF enables access to telecommunications services for all U.S. consumers.

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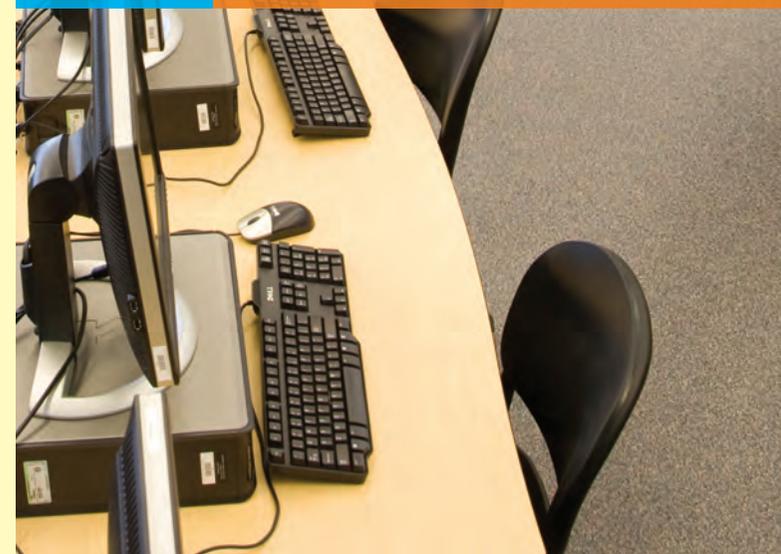
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PROGRAM
OVERVIEW

E-RATE PROGRAM

THE UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND



www.usac.org

HOW DOES E-RATE WORK?

Schools and libraries can apply each year for discounts on the cost of telecommunications and other services. If you are funded, you can either receive discounted bills from your service providers or pay for the services in full and request reimbursement. The program is capped at \$2.25 billion per program year, indexed to inflation each year.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR E-RATE?

SCHOOLS AND SCHOOL DISTRICTS

- All public schools, K-12
- All non-profit K-12 private and parochial schools with endowments not exceeding \$50 million

A school must meet the definition of an elementary or secondary school under state law.

LIBRARIES AND LIBRARY CONSORTIA

- All public libraries
- Many private, not-for-profit libraries accessible to the public
- A library must:
 - have a budget completely separate from any school.
 - be eligible for Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) assistance in its state.



Discounts range from **20%-90%**

WHAT SERVICES ARE ELIGIBLE FOR FUNDING?

- Telecommunications services such as local and long distance services, 800 services, and cellular service
- Basic conduit Internet access, including Voice over Internet Protocol and other data services
- Internal connections, including network equipment and the wiring needed to bring information directly to classrooms and library patrons
- Basic maintenance of internal connections

E-Rate funds **do not** cover such things as desktop computers, learning software, or teacher/librarian training.

HOW LARGE ARE THE DISCOUNTS?

Discounts range from 20% - 90%, depending on the level of poverty as measured by the percentage of students eligible for the National School Lunch Program and the rural or urban location of the school or library. The higher the poverty level, the higher the discounts.

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