

WHAT IS E-RATE ?

The Schools and Libraries Program, commonly known as E-rate, provides discounts to eligible 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 oversight of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).



WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?

Call our Client Service Bureau at
(888) 203-8100

or visit us online at
www.usac.org/sl

ABOUT USAC

The Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) is an independent, not-for-profit corporation designated by the FCC as the administrator of the federal universal service fund (USF). USAC collects universal service contributions from telecommunications carriers and administers universal service programs designed to provide access to affordable telecommunications services for people living in remote or rural areas, low-income consumers, rural health care providers, schools, and libraries.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The Schools and Libraries Program, commonly known as E-rate, provides discounts to help schools and libraries obtain affordable rates for telecommunications, telecommunications services, Internet access, internal connections, and basic maintenance of internal connections. The program is administered by USAC under the oversight of the FCC.

UNIVERSAL SERVICE ADMINISTRATIVE COMPANY

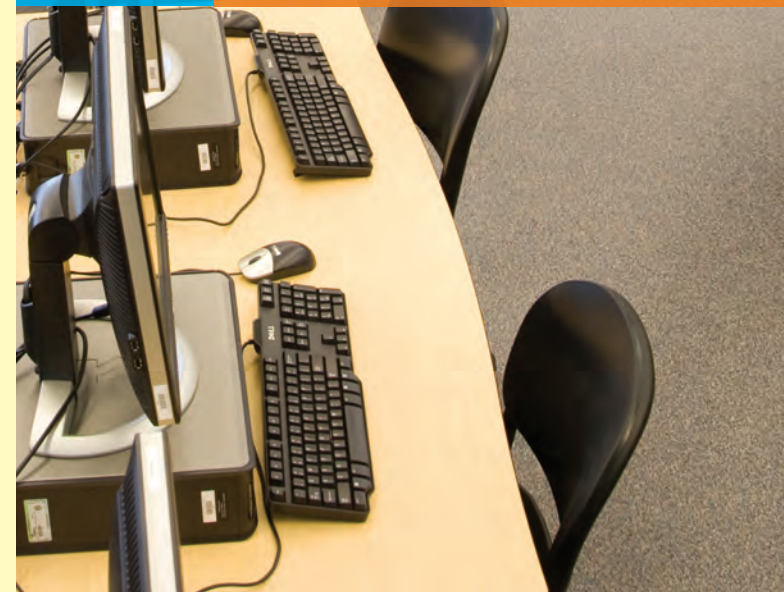
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PROGRAM
OVERVIEW

E-RATE PROGRAM



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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 nonprofit 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, and
 - 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 (VoIP) 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 to 90 percent, depending on the level of poverty as measured by the percentage of students eligible for the National School Lunch Program or an equivalent measure of poverty, and the rural or urban location of the school or library. The higher the poverty level, the higher the discounts.

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