

E-Rate Program Overview

Provides funding to help schools and libraries obtain affordable telecommunications and Internet access.

FY2024
Program Cap \$4.9B

Eligible Applicants

Public and private schools (K-12), libraries, and groups of schools and libraries (e.g., consortia, school districts, library systems), as well as Tribal schools, libraries, and Tribal college and university (TCU) libraries that also serve as a public library.

Eligible Services

Schools and libraries are eligible for discounts between 20% and 90% of the costs of eligible equipment and services. The applicant pays the remaining share (e.g., a 90% applicant pays \$100 on a \$1,000 request). *Discount varies based on the school or library’s level of poverty, urban/rural status, and the type of service.

CATEGORY

1

Services that support connectivity to schools and libraries. For example, data transmission and Internet access service, including special construction services for network builds.

CATEGORY

2

Services that support connectivity within schools and libraries. This includes internal connections (e.g., routers, cabling, or other equipment needed for a Wi-Fi network); managed internal broadband services (MIBS), and basic maintenance of internal connections (BMIC).

Examples of Common/ Frequent Purchases

Top C1 Purchases:

- Leased lit fiber
- Internet access provided over fiber or copper
- Commercially available internet access
- Cable provider internet
- Satellite internet

Top C2 Purchases:

- Internal Connections: Cabling, routers, switches, modems, wireless access points, right to use licenses
- BMIC: repair and upkeep of eligible IC
- MIBS: Managed Wi-Fi agreements