

Fall Training EPC Administrative Window

December 2, 2025



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- Each attendee has the option to turn captioning on or off.
- If you choose to use captioning, we apologize in advance for any transcription errors or distractions and appreciate your understanding.
- Please be aware, this webinar is being recorded.

Housekeeping - Closed Captioning (CC)

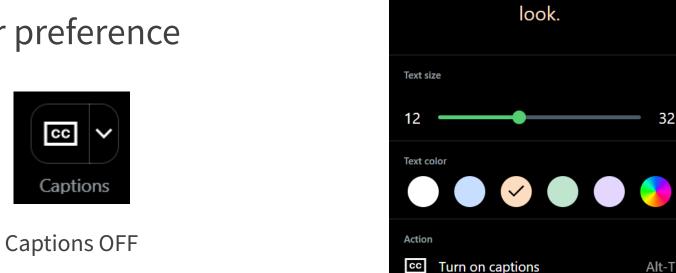
Attendees control their own captioning





- You control the **font size** and color on CC
- Toggle CC off and on at your preference



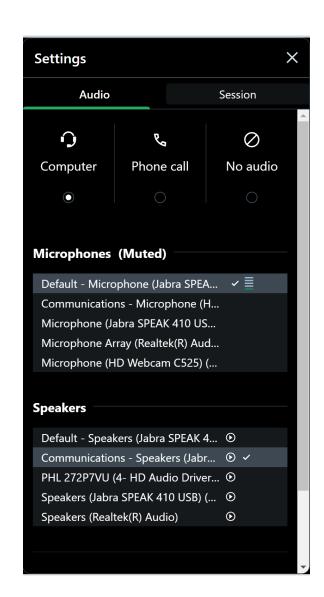


Preview

This is how captions will

Housekeeping - Audio

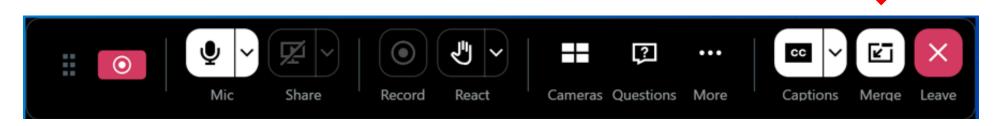
- Audio is available through <u>your</u> computer's speakers.
- Double-check your speaker settings.
- Make sure you are connected to a source that works.
- The audience is muted.
- If your audio or slides freeze, restart the webinar.



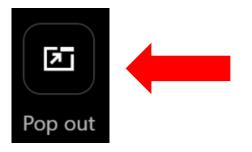
Housekeeping - Screen Views



- Two ways to view the webinar
 - 1. Multiple windows open, can **merge** into one



2. One window for all content, can **pop out** into multiple windows



Housekeeping - Materials & Questions

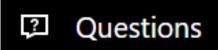
 A copy of the slide deck is in the Materials section of the webinar panel

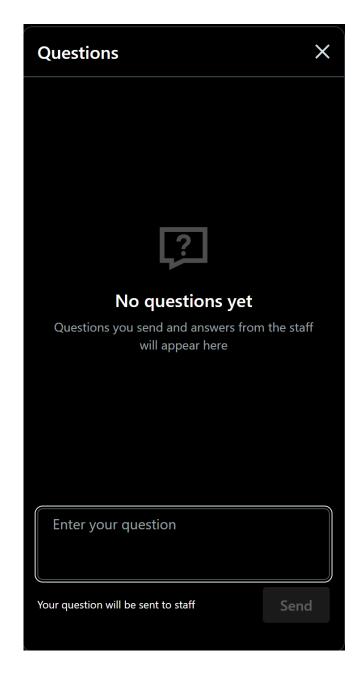




 Enter questions at any time using the Questions box







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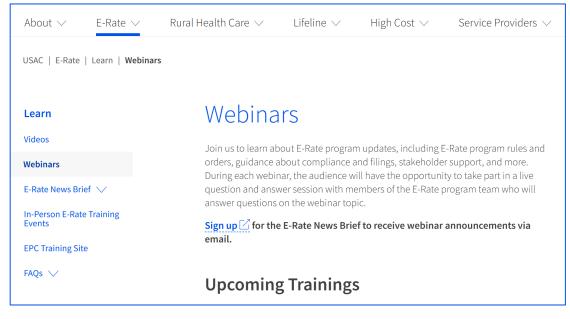
Create a customer service case in the **E-Rate Productivity Center (EPC)**:

- 1. Log in to EPC.
- 2. Select the **Contact Us** link from the upper right menu on the landing page.

E-Rate Fall Training Series 2025

- ✓ E-Rate Program Overview September 18
- ✓ Pre-Commitment September 25
- ✓ Invoicing November 19
- ✓ Category Two Budgets November 20
- ✓ Post-Commitment November 25
- EPC Admin Window December 2
- Eligible Services December 3





- The E-Rate Fall Training Webinar Series is suitable for all E-Rate experience levels.
- Webinars are recommended for both applicants and service providers.
- A webinar tailored to service providers was held in June 2025. Handouts and a recording of this webinar are
 available on the E-Rate <u>Webinars</u> page.
- Please visit the E-Rate <u>Webinars</u> page for additional information including course descriptions, registration links for future webinars, and access to recordings and handouts from previous webinars.

Meet the E-Rate Team



Tyanna Smith

Manager | E-Rate



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Agenda

- About the Administrative Window
- Information to be Updated
- Funding Year 2026-2030
- Entity Profile Updates
- Account Administrators
- Entity Search Tool
- Admin Window eLearning Module (eLM)
- What if I Miss the Administrative Window?
- Administrative Window Tips



About the Admin Window

What is the Administrative Window?

• Time when applicants update their EPC entity profile information (e.g., discount rate information) for the FCC Form 471 application filing window.

Occurs from October to early January prior to the FCC Form 471 application filing

window.



- Official Admin Window dates are announced in the E-Rate News Brief.
- EPC profiles are locked before the FCC Form 471 application filing window to prevent changes that impact an entity's discount rate.

Why do we have the Administrative Window?

- To ensure the applicant's discount remains accurate by collecting National School Lunch Program (NSLP), full-time student counts and square footage for entities tied to a school district, library system, or consortium.
- Allow faster processing of FCC Form 471 application funding requests
- Provide a simple <u>self-service</u> option for updating annual student count or entity information.
- Reduce review time during Program Integrity Assurance (PIA) review.



Information to Update

What is updated every Admin Window?

- EPC profile information including address, email, phone etc.
- Account administrator contact
 - Is your account administrator correct? Do you have one on file?
- User rights levels
 - Are there at least two full rights who can certify forms?
- New entities
- Consultants on your account
- School student counts and NSLP
- Library square footage

What Changes to Make?

	Schools / School Districts	Libraries and Library Systems	Consortia
Account Administrator is active and current	Х	Х	X
Account Administrator adds new users and deactivates users that no longer work for the organization	X	х	Х
Account Administrator reviews and updates all user rights by form/transaction, ensuring at least 2 full rights users per form	X	Х	Х
Account Administrator updates/adds consulting firm (CRN) and consulting firm users and updates rights	Х	Х	Х
New or closed entities requested via a customer service case	Х	х	Х
Update entity relationships (child entities, consortia members)	Х	Х	Х
Update student counts / library square footage; update entity subtypes / add Tribal affiliation	Х	Х	
Review/update entity profiles to ensure that are no errors due to missing information	Х	Х	
Update entity contact information and FCC registration number	Х	Х	X
Establish your new Category 2 Budget	Х	Х	

Start Early, End On Time!

- Administrative window updates
 - 103k schools need latest student counts
 - 21k Account Administrators
 - 2.4k new entities created each year
- Start early to allow enough time to complete all updates!
- Do not wait until the last week of the administrative window to make and request your changes
- If entity profile updates (e.g., student counts, new entities)
 are needed outside of the administrative window,
 this may slow down application review
 and delay your Funding Commitment Decision Letter(s).





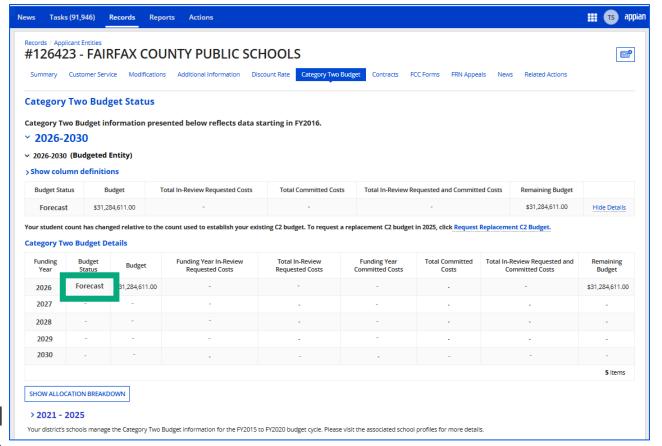
FY2026 - FY2030 Category Two (C2) Budget Management

Funding Year (FY) 2026 will be the first year of the FY2026 – FY2030 funding cycle.

- Unused funds from the FY2021 FY2025 C2 budget **will not** roll over to the FY2026 FY2030 funding cycle.
- Applicants should update their entity profiles in EPC and will be **required** to validate their student counts or library square footage in the first year they apply for C2 support during the FY2026 FY2030 cycle.
- The <u>E-Rate C2 Budget Tool FY2021+</u> provides data on the C2 budget cycles for FY2021–FY2025 and FY2026–2030. It is available on E-Rate's <u>Tools</u> page, along with a <u>video</u> on how to use the tool and a <u>glossary of terms</u>.

Establishing Your C2 Budget for This Cycle

- Update your entity profile in EPC during the Administrative Window.
 - This information determines your discount.
 - For instructions, please see the <u>Admin</u> Window eLM.
- Forecast Budget: Beginning in the FY2026 FY2030 budget cycle, all entities will have a Forecast budget status based on the information in their EPC profile. This means that any updates you make to the entity profile will automatically reflect in an updated budget amount, without the need to request a replacement budget.



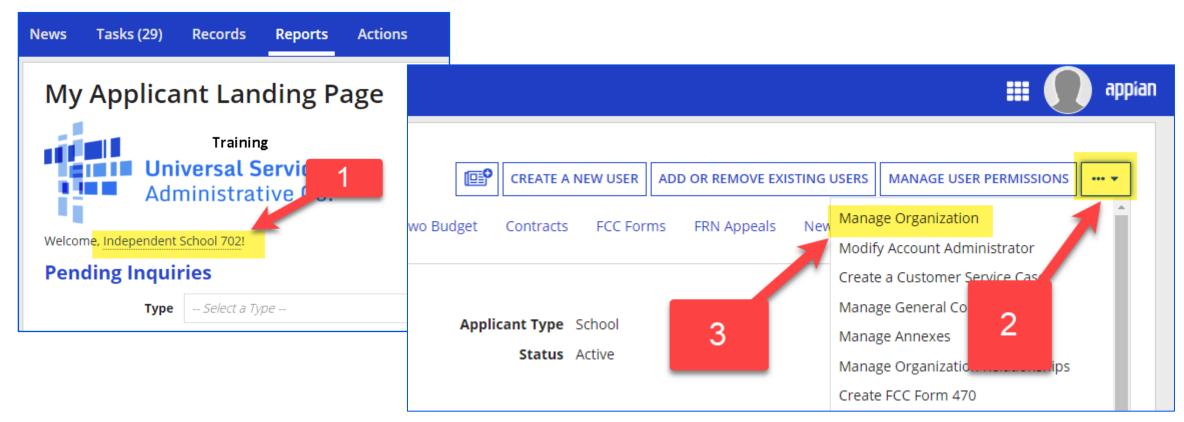
Establishing Your C2 Budget for This Cycle (Cont.)

- **Preliminary Budget:** The entity has **certified** a Form 471 application within the FY2026 FY2030 C2 budget cycle. This means that the entity has certified the accuracy of the budget data currently in the entity profile, but Program Integrity Assurance (PIA) review of the application is not complete.
- **Confirmed Budget:** Program Integrity Assurance (PIA) review of FY2026 FY2030 C2 Form 471 application is **complete**. The C2 budget in the entity profile is now **fixed**. It can only be changed via an Appeal for the current funding year. Beginning in FY2027, the entity can request a replacement C2 budget if the student count has increased for the next year.

Update Entity Profile

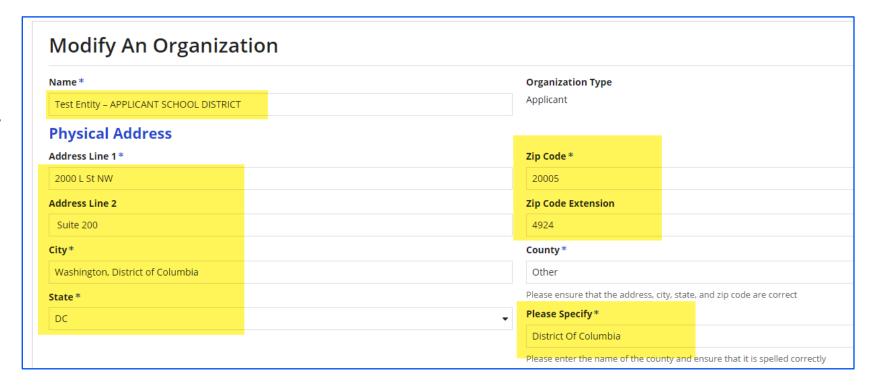
Update Entity Profile

• To update things like address, email, etc., you must update the Entity profile.

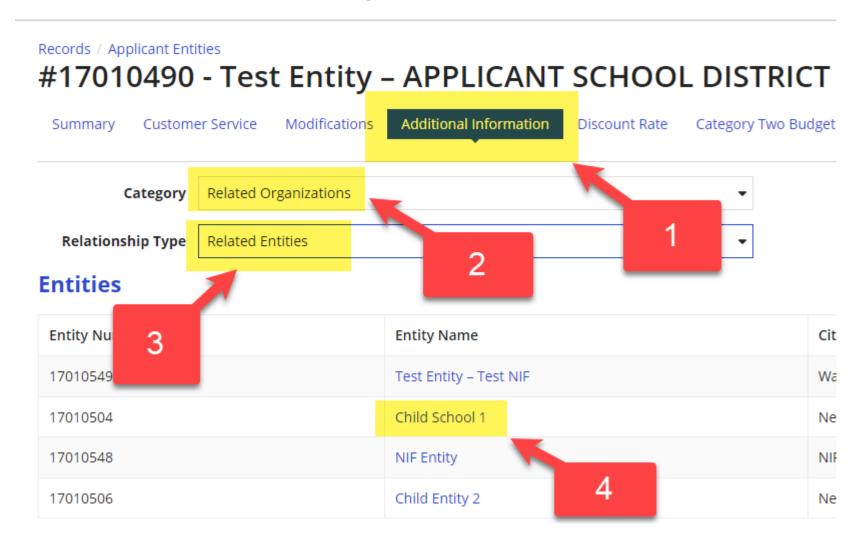


Update Entity Profile

- Address determines urban/rural status which impacts your discount
- Verifies service delivery during invoicing

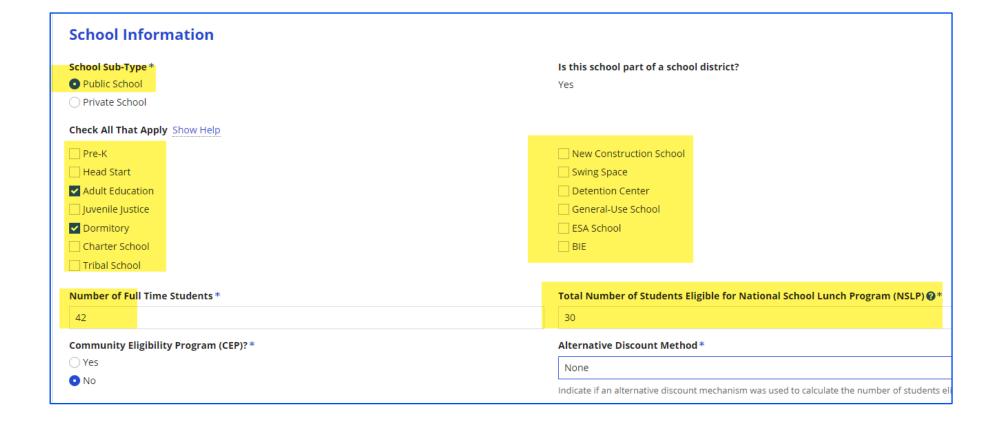


Update Related Entity Profiles



Update Entity Profile - School

- Entity types
 and subtypes
 verify eligibility
- Student counts determine your discount rate

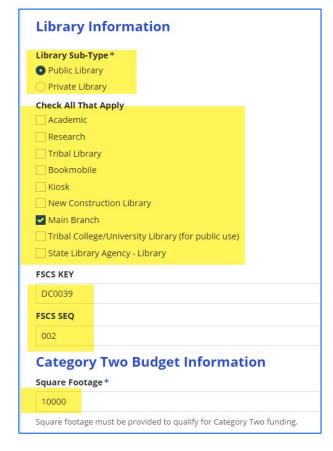


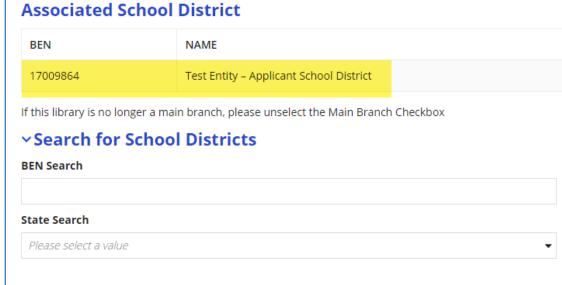
Updating Student Counts

- Students counts from approved FCC Form 471 are in the EPC entity profile prior to the Administrative Window
- Update your students counts based on the most recent data you have during the Administrative Window
- If you receive National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and full-time student counts
 after the Administrative Window closes, use them for the next Funding Year

Updating Entity Profile - Library

- Library main branch and associated school district determine discount rate
- Square footage determines C2 budget



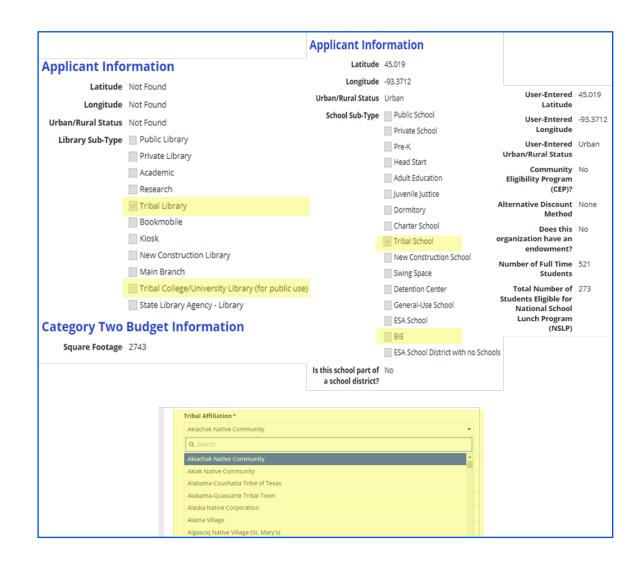


Update Library System (Parent) and Branch (Child) Profiles

- Verify the square footage for each of your library branches and the designation of your library's main branch.
 - Library systems report square footage at the library branch level (rather than a total at the library system level).
- If you are an independent library, designate your library as your main branch.
- Add square footage from bookmobiles. A bookmobile with zero square footage will not be included in the library system's C2 budget calculation.
- For each new library entity that is currently missing in your organization's profile, USAC must create the entity for you.
- Confirm the main branch is associated with the correct school district.

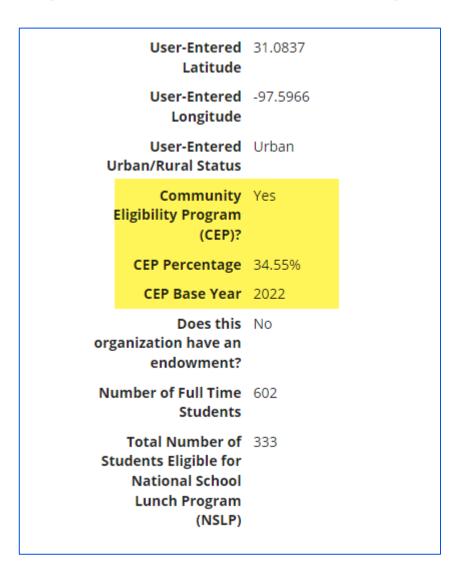
Indicating Tribal Status

- In July 2023, the FCC expanded the eligibility to Tribal Colleges/University Libraries.
- Entities with the following Tribal subtypes will be asked to provide their Tribal Affiliation based on a dropdown menu:
 - Tribal library
 - Tribal school
 - BIE (Bureau of Indian Education)
- If one of the entity subtypes above are selected and the school or library does not meet the definition of Tribal under the FCC order, we recommend you deselect the entity subtype accordingly.
- Tribal entity eligibility will be reviewed as part of the FCC Form 471 application review process.



FY2025 Community Eligibility Program(CEP) Changes

- The minimum allowable Community Eligibility Program (CEP) % changed from 40% to 25% starting in FY 2024.
- Applicants are no longer required to submit a Receipt Acknowledgement Request (RAL) for CEP % between 25-39%.
- Applicants can now update the CEP % in their EPC entity profile for 25%+.
- Reminder: Check the base year to ensure it is updated to the start of your CEP cycle.
- For more information on CEP, visit our <u>website</u>.



Account Administrators

Who is responsible?

- Account Administrators are responsible for updating the EPC profile during the administrative window.
- If you are unsure who your Account Administrator is, navigate to the Applicant Entity Profile page in EPC and look under the field Account Administrator.
- If you organization does not have an account administrator, call the Customer Service Center:
 - (888) 203-8100, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. ET

EPC Account Administrator Role

- Every organization (independent school, independent library, school district, library system, consortium) with an account in EPC **needs an Account Administrator**.
 - The Account Administrator must be an employee of the Billed Entity Number's (BEN's) school or library and cannot be a consultant.
 - For billed entity and service provider accounts, the Account Administrator is tied to their 498 ID. See <u>Applicant 498</u> and <u>Service Provider 498</u> pages on our website.
- Consultants and Service Providers also need to create Consultant and Service Provider Accounts and Account Administrators for their EPC accounts.

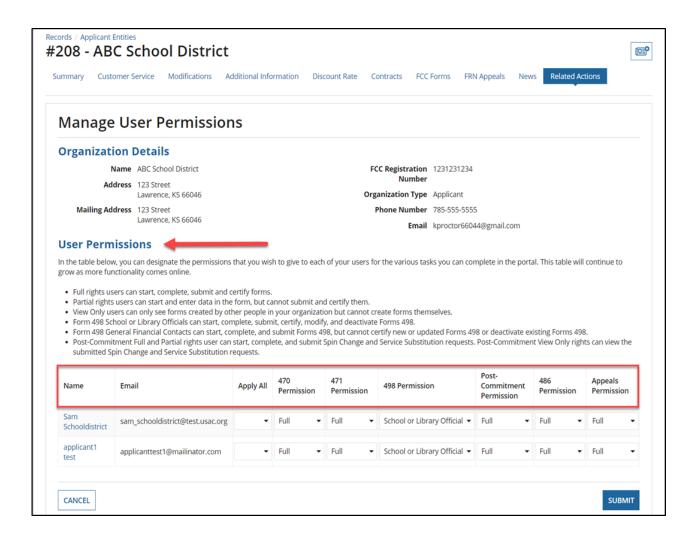
EPC Account Administrator Permissions

Account Administrators can:

- Create new users.
- Modify the rights of existing users.
- Modify information about their organization.
- Link or unlink their organization to consulting firms and consortia.
- Modify (change) the Account Administrator.
- Deactivate users who no longer work for the organization.

Account Administrator Grants User Permissions

- The Account Administrator determines which rights to grant each user.
 - Instructions for granting user rights can be found in the User Rights section of the <u>Admin</u> <u>Window eLM</u>.



User "Rights" Levels

The Account Administrator determines which EPC users can view, create, certify, and submit FCC forms and requests. It is a good practice to review these levels annually and update where needed.

- A "Full-Rights" user can complete and certify forms on behalf of the BEN, update profile information, and receive all USAC communications regarding the BEN.
 - For example, you may determine that a **school or library official** should have this level.
- A "Partial-Rights" user can **create forms** (but not certify those forms) and update profile information.
 - You may decide that a general financial contact should have this access level.
- "View-Only" rights users can view (but not update) the accounts.

User Permissions

Abilities	Full Rights	Partial Rights	View Only Rights
Create Forms	X	X	-
Certify and Submit Forms	X	-	-
Update Profile	X	X	-
View Account	X	X	X
Respond to Outreach	X	-	-

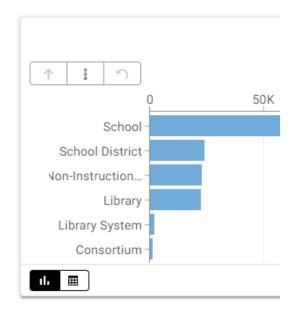
E-Rate Entity Search Tool

- The <u>E-Rate Entity Search</u>
 <u>Tool</u> available in Open
 Data so you can view and
 download entity data
- Once you make updates to entities in EPC, the data will show in the tool the next day
- For instructions on to use Open Data, view our Open Data eLM or webinar trainings

E-Rate Entity Search Tool

The E-Rate Entity Search Tool enables the search of E-Rate Productivity Center (EPC) information about schools, libraries, school districts, library systems, consortia, and non-instructional facilities (NIFs). For Annexes information, please refer to the "E-Rate Supplemental Entity Information: Annexes" dataset.

Watch the video walkthrough to learn how to use the tool.



How to Update your EPC Profile During the Administrative Window eLearning Module (eLM)

- Explaining User Permissions
- Updating Profile
- Requesting C2 Budget Replacement
- Reporting Student Counts
- How to Update Your E-Rate
 EPC Profile During the
 Administrative Window



What if I Miss the Administrative Window?

Once the Administrative Window Closes, the filing window for the FCC Form 471 applications will begin shortly after:

- EPC profiles are now "locked": No new changes can be made that affect an entity's discount calculation.
- Applicants would need to submit a Receipt Acknowledgement Letter (RAL Modification) after certifying their FCC Form 471.

To file a Modification Request (RAL), follow these instructions:

- 1. Find and open the appropriate FCC Form 471. You can find your forms on your Landing Page under Forms and Post-Commitment Requests, or from your entity Summary page under FCC Forms.
- 2. Filter the forms by FCC Form 471, Funding Year, and Certified.
- 3. Click on the FCC Form 471 that you want to update.
- 4. Near the top of the page (under the form name), click "Related Actions."
- 5. Click "Submit Modification Request (RAL)."

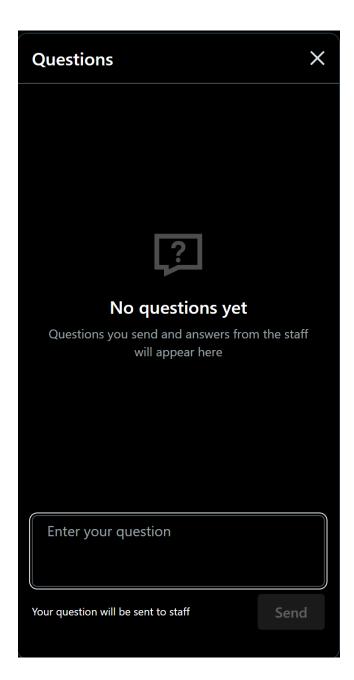
Administrative Window Tips

- Start early and do not wait until the last minute!
- Ensure your Account Administrator is active.
- Ensure your consultant firm is current.
- Leverage EPC self-service capabilities.
- Request new entities via a customer service case early in the window. (<u>Customer service documentation needed for new entities</u>.)
- Leverage the open data tool to review existing and updated entity data.
- Set yourself up for success for FCC Form 471 application window.
- Help us help you!

Live Q&A

Submit your questions about today's topics:

- Items related to the EPC Administrative Window
 - Making changes
 - Account administrators and permissions
 - Funding Years 2026-2030
 - Missing the window



Q&A Tips

- ✓ Type your queries into the "Questions" box in your webinar control panel.
- ✓ Write in full sentences.
- ✓ Ask one question at a time.
- ✓ Click the box to expand it and see all the written answers.

Questions?

Contact Us • E-Rate Customer Service Center (CSC)



Call us at (888) 203-8100

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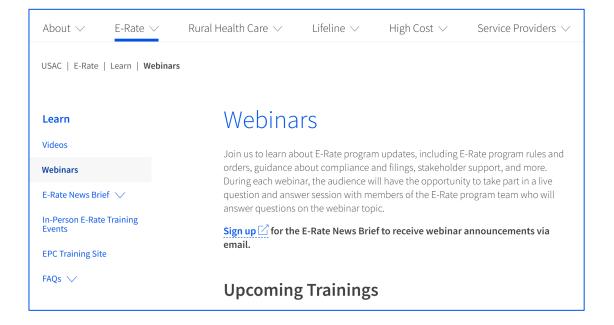


Create a customer service case

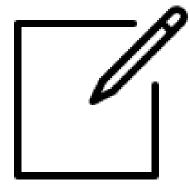
- 1. Log in to the **E-Rate Productivity Center (EPC)**
- 2. Select the **Contact Us** link from the upper right menu on the landing page.

Upcoming Webinars

- Our next webinar is **December 3** on **Eligible Services**.
- Please visit the E-Rate <u>Webinars</u> page for additional information.



Take Our Survey



- We want to hear about your webinar experience.
- A survey will appear on your screen at the end of the webinar.
- If you are not able to complete the survey today, one will be emailed to you within one to two business days.
- We appreciate your feedback!

Thank You!



