

Fall Training Category Two Budgets

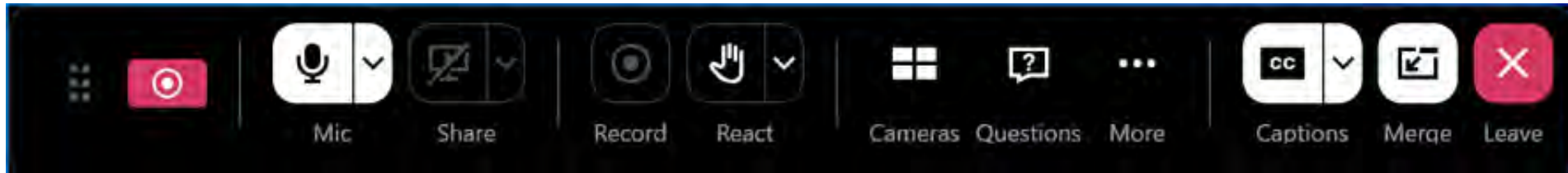
November 20, 2025

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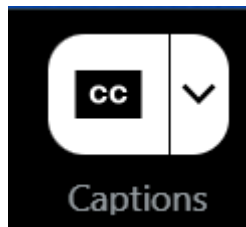
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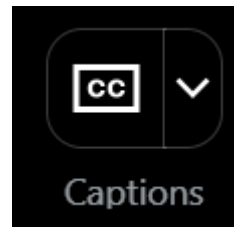
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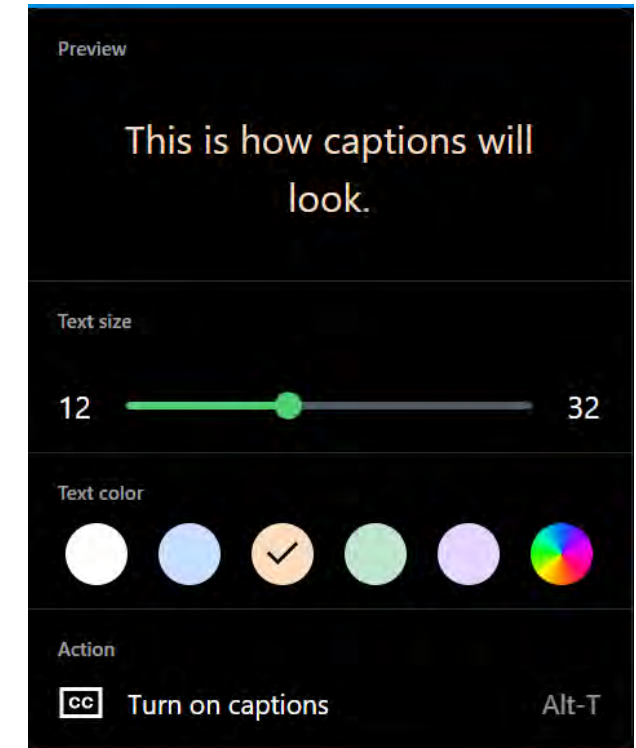
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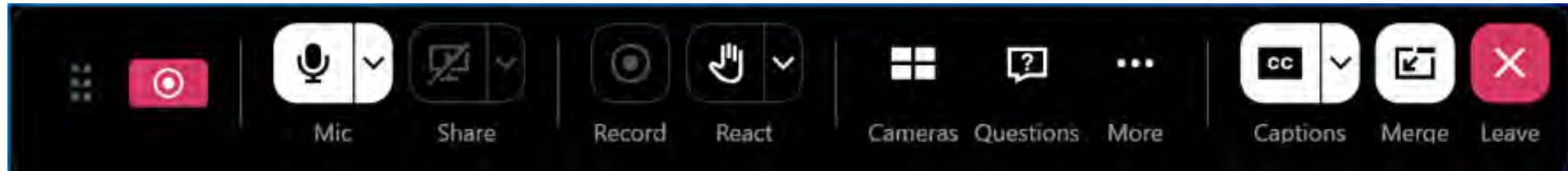


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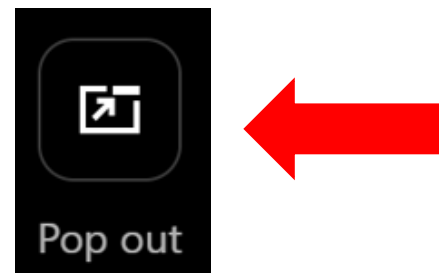


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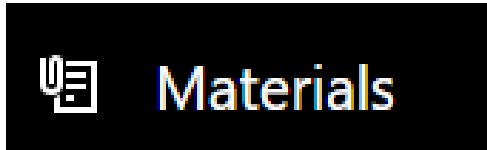


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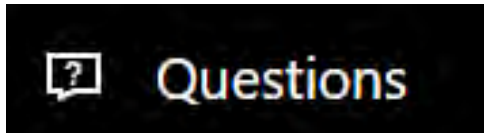


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Questions

×



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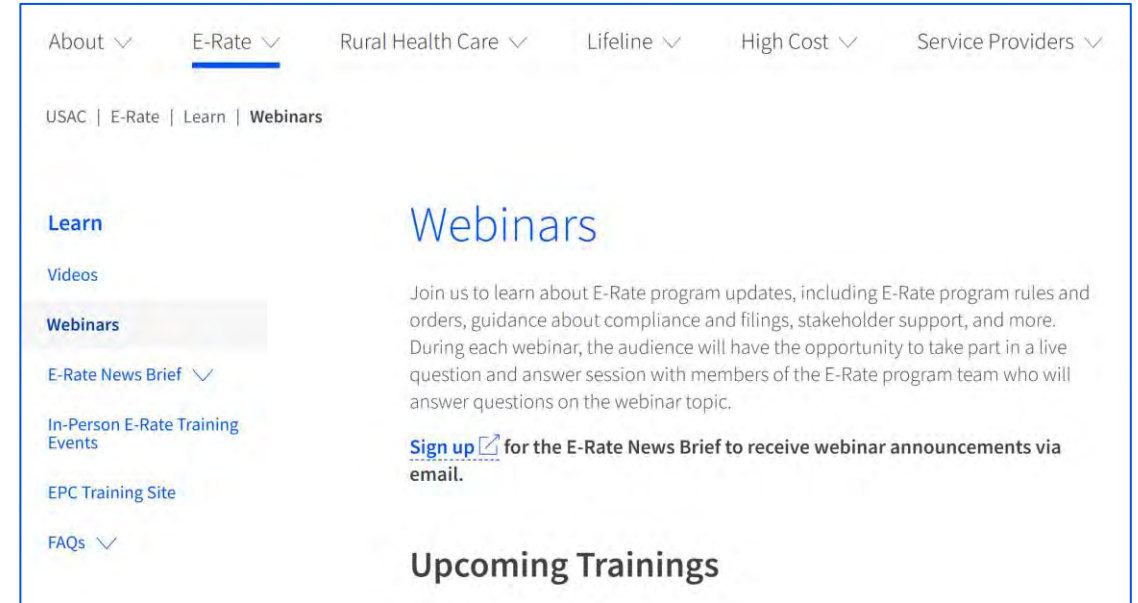
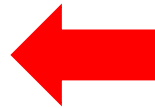


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E-Rate Fall Training Series 2025

- ✓ 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 [Webinars](#) page.
- Please visit the E-Rate [Webinars](#) 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



Lisette LaForge

Program Manager | E-Rate

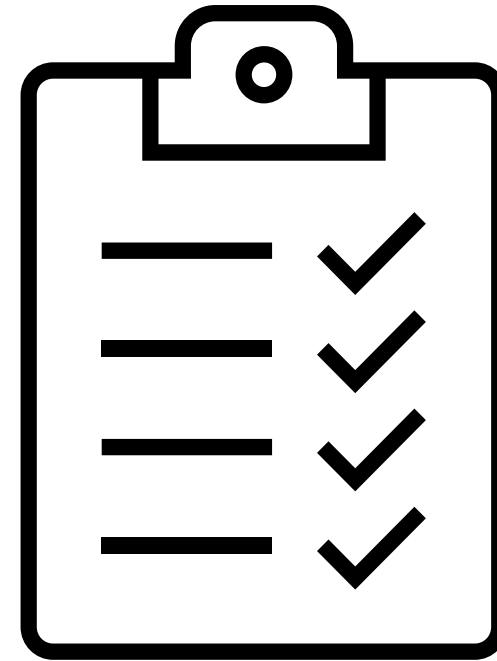


Nekose Wills

Sr. Communications Specialist | E-Rate

Agenda

- Funding Year 2026 C2 Program Updates
- Service Category Refresher
- Category Two Budgets
- Calculating C2 Budgets with 11+ Sites
- Calculating Category Two Budgets with 10 or Fewer Sites
- Equipment Transfers
- Q&A



Learning Objectives

By the end of the webinar attendees should understand:

- How Category Two (C2) Budgets function in the new FY2026 – FY2030 funding cycle
- The difference between Category One (C1) and C2 services and equipment
- How budget calculations work
- Program rule nuances and exceptions (e.g., C2 equipment transfers, charter schools)

Funding Year 2026 C2 Program Updates and Reminders

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 [E-Rate C2 Budget Tool FY2021+](#) provides data on the C2 budget cycles for FY2021–FY2025 and FY2026–2030. It is available on E-Rate's [Tools](#) page, along with a [video](#) on how to use the tool and a [glossary of terms](#).

FY2026 – FY2030 C2 Budget Multiplier Updates

FY2021 – FY2025 C2 Budget Cycle

Libraries

- \$4.50/square foot
- \$25,000 funding floor
- Tribal libraries were eligible for a \$55,000 funding floor

Schools

- \$167/student
- \$25,000 funding floor

FY2026 – FY2030 C2 Budget Cycle

Libraries

- **\$5.43**/square foot
- **\$30,175** funding floor
 - This means a library with less than 5,558 square feet ($\$5.43/\text{square foot} \times 5,557 \text{ square feet} = \$30,174.51$) is eligible for the funding floor of \$30,175.
- Tribal libraries are eligible for a **\$66,385** funding floor.
 - This means a Tribal library with less than 12,226 square feet ($\$5.43/\text{square foot} \times 12,225 \text{ square feet} = \$66,381.75$) is eligible for the Tribal library funding floor of \$66,385.

Schools

- **\$201.57**/student
- **\$30,175** funding floor
 - This means a school with fewer than 150 students ($\$201.57/\text{student} \times 149 \text{ students} = \$30,033.93$) is eligible for the funding floor of \$30,175.

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 [Admin 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.

News Tasks (91,946) Records Reports Actions

Records / Applicant Entities
#126423 - FAIRFAX COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Summary Customer Service Modifications Additional Information Discount Rate **Category Two Budget** Contracts FCC Forms FRN Appeals News Related Actions

Category Two Budget Status

Category Two Budget information presented below reflects data starting in FY2016.

▼ 2026-2030

▼ 2026-2030 (Budgeted Entity)

► Show column definitions

Budget Status	Budget	Total In-Review Requested Costs	Total Committed Costs	Total In-Review Requested and Committed Costs	Remaining Budget
Forecast	\$31,284,611.00	-	-	-	\$31,284,611.00

Your student count has changed relative to the count used to establish your existing C2 budget. To request a replacement C2 budget in 2025, click [Request Replacement C2 Budget](#).

Category Two Budget Details

Funding Year	Budget Status	Budget	Funding Year In-Review Requested Costs	Total In-Review Requested Costs	Funding Year Committed Costs	Total Committed Costs	Total In-Review Requested and Committed Costs	Remaining Budget
2026	Forecast	\$31,284,611.00	-	-	-	-	-	\$31,284,611.00
2027	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2028	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2029	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2030	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

5 items

SHOW ALLOCATION BREAKDOWN

► 2021 - 2025

Your district's schools manage the Category Two Budget information for the FY2015 to FY2020 budget cycle. Please visit the associated school profiles for more details.

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.

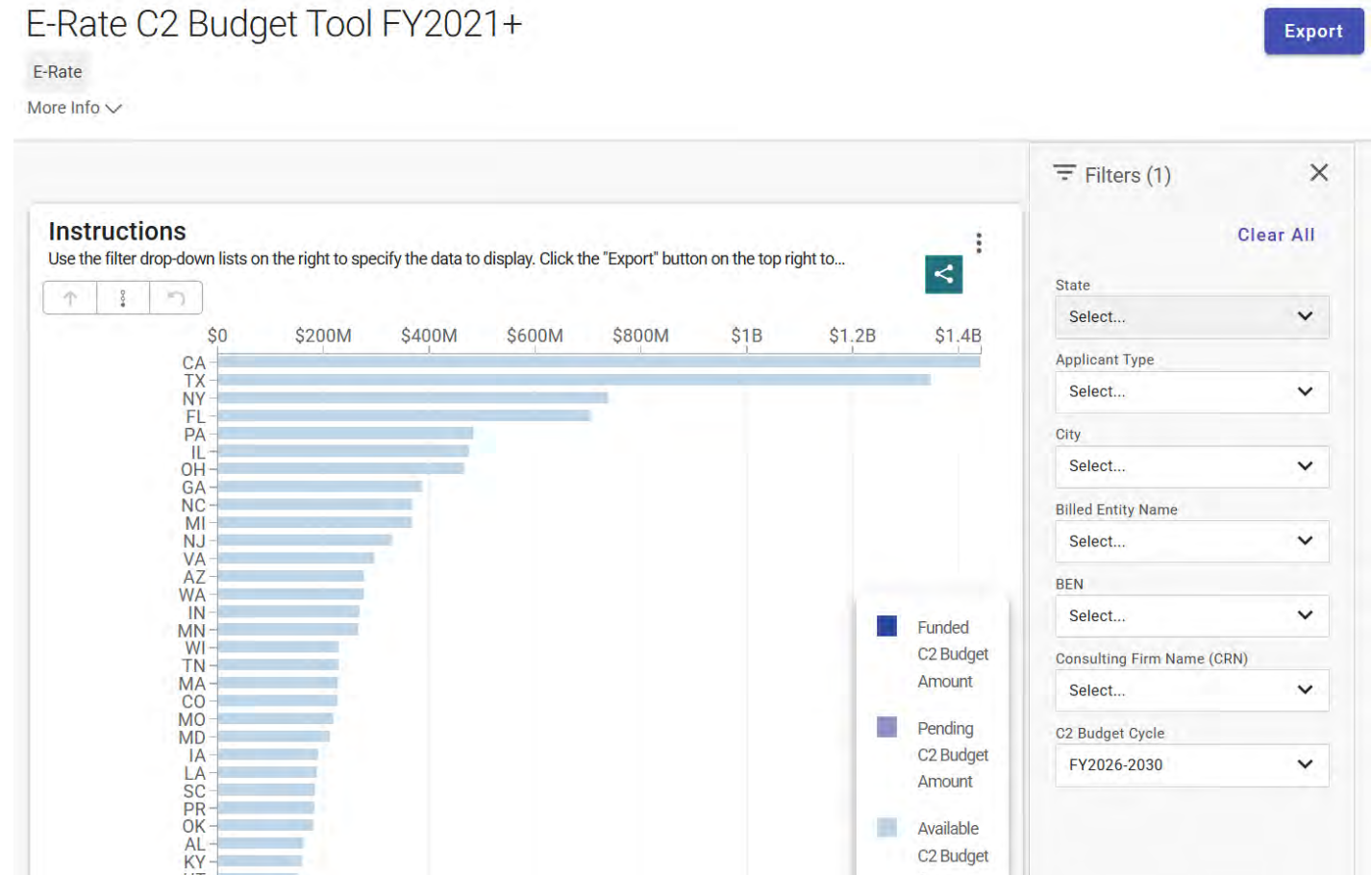
Validating Student Counts and Square Footage

Student counts and library square footage are validated during the **Program Integrity Assurance** (PIA) Review phase in the first funding year an application for C2 funding is certified during the cycle.

- This also applies to a certified consortium FCC Form 471 that includes your organization.
- Please retain all C2 budget calculation records, including information on your school student counts and library square footage.
 - For more information, see E-Rate's [document retention](#) policy.
- Note: If the total student count or square footage changes during the five-year funding cycle, applicants may request a C2 budget recalculation but are not required to do so.

FY2021+ Category Two Budget Tool

- In addition to EPC, the [FY2021+ Category Two Budget Tool](#) is designed to assist applicants in determining their C2 budgets for each five-year cycle.
- It has been updated for the FY2026-2030 cycle.
- View the [FY2021+ Category Two Budget Tool Dataset Glossary](#) to help you better understand and navigate the tool.



Service Category Refresher

Services and Equipment Category Refresher

- Category One (C1) Services and Equipment
 - Provide data transmission and/or internet service **to** the building.
- Category Two (C2) Services and Equipment
 - Specific services and equipment that provide connectivity **inside** the building (e.g., Wi-Fi networks).
 - Funding for C2 services and equipment is limited by the entity's C2 Budget.

For more information on Service and Equipment Categories, visit the [Eligible Services Overview](#) page on the E-Rate website.

Services and Equipment Category Refresher (Cont.)

- C2 includes services and equipment necessary to transport information to school classrooms or publicly accessible areas of a library.
- C2 services are subdivided into three groups:
 - **Internal Connections (IC)** – Equipment needed to utilize a broadband connection within a school or library. This includes, for example, routers, switches, and cabling.
 - **Basic Maintenance of Internal Connections (BMIC)** – Covers the repair and upkeep of the eligible equipment needed to use a broadband connection within a school or library.
 - **Managed Internal Broadband Services (MIBS)** – Services provided by a vendor related to the operation, management, and monitoring of eligible internal connections (owned or leased equipment) necessary for the broadband connectivity within schools and libraries.

End-user equipment, such as laptops, computers, headsets, and speakers, is **not eligible** for E-Rate funding.

Services and Equipment Category Refresher (Cont.)

C2 service and equipment examples:

- **Internal Connections**
 - Cabling, routers, switches, modems, and wireless access points
 - Necessary software or licenses to use the equipment
- **Basic Maintenance of Internal Connections (BMIC)**
 - The repair and upkeep of eligible internal connections (bug fixes or patches)
 - Multi-year maintenance service subscriptions (software updates)
 - Must divide multi-year requests by each funding year (i.e., a three-year subscription should be requested annually for one third of the price over three years)
- **Managed Internal Broadband Services (MIBS)**
 - Managed Wi-Fi Agreement

Category Two Budgets

Category Two Budgets - A Fixed, Five-Year Cycle

- E-Rate funding for C2 equipment and services is calculated on a **fixed, five-year cycle**.
 - The upcoming five-year cycle begins in FY2026 and continues through FY2030.
- The C2 budget is the maximum amount of pre-discount E-Rate funding available for C2 equipment and services over the five-year period.
- **Budget Multipliers:**
 - \$201.57 per student
 - \$5.43 per library square foot
- **Funding floor** - The minimum C2 budget available for each child entity is:
 - \$30,175 (and \$66,385 for Tribal libraries)

Calculated at School District or Library System Level

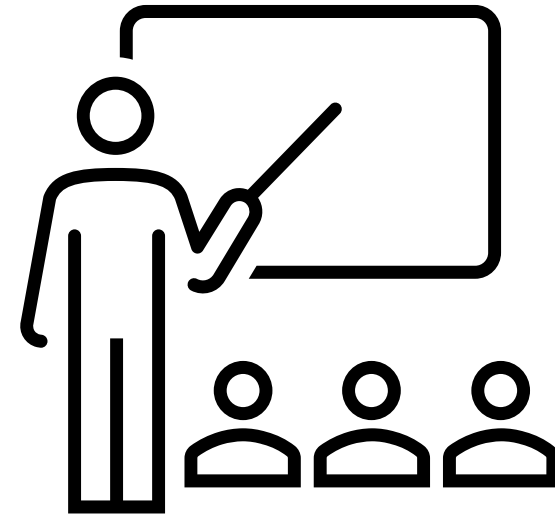
- C2 budgets are calculated at the district or system level.
- School districts and library systems **allocate funding among their sites (or child entities) as they see fit**. USAC does not dictate how the budgeted entity allocates funding.
- C2 calculations are pre-discounted, meaning the full price of a C2 equipment or service is subtracted from your budget when you purchase it.
- C2 budgets are set in the first funding year the applicant applies for C2 funding during the five-year cycle and **apply to the entire five-year cycle** (unless the applicant chooses to recalculate in a future funding year).

Child Entity Counts

- The **child entity count** is the number of the individual schools in a school district or the number of library branches in a library system.
 - School District or Library System = parent entity within EPC
 - Individual School or Library = child entity within EPC
- With a few exceptions, an individual school must have a student count greater than zero in the entity profile to be included in the child entity count.
- A library branch must have a square footage greater than zero in the entity profile to be included in the child entity count. Note that bookmobiles will not be counted if the square footage is zero.
- Non-instructional facilities (NIFs) and annexes are not considered child entities.
- The number of child entities in the parent entity's E-Rate Productivity Center (EPC) profile affects how you calculate the C2 budget.

Charter Schools

If a state law considers a charter school to be part of a school district, the charter school will be presumed to be part of the school district unless it **demonstrates financial and administrative independence** from the district, in which case it will have its own C2 budget and discount rate.



Category Two Cost Allocations

- **Budgeted entity:** An entity with a C2 budget. A budgeted entity must be an independent school, independent library, school district, or library system.
- A budgeted entity **does not** need to provide USAC with a cost allocation of its C2 budget among its child entities.
- A consortium must allocate the costs of C2 funding requests among its budgeted entity members (parent entities, like school districts) – but not to those members' **individual child entities**, like the schools within the districts.
- The consortium members' C2 budgets will be visible to consortium leaders during the FCC Form 471 filing process.
- Cost allocation to remove the costs associated with a non-instructional facility's (NIF) use of shared equipment in NIFs and related-library administrative buildings is no longer required.

C2 Student Count in EPC – School Districts

An example screenshot from a school district's EPC profile page. The school district chose **“Manage Organization”** in the top right corner to get to this screen and have the ability to edit or modify.

The screenshot displays the Appian NW interface for a school district's EPC profile. The top navigation bar is blue with the Appian logo and 'NW' on the right. Below the navigation bar, there are four buttons: 'CREATE A NEW USER', 'ADD OR REMOVE EXISTING USERS', 'MANAGE USER PERMISSIONS', and a dropdown menu icon (three dots). The dropdown menu is open, showing a list of options: 'Manage Organization', 'Modify Account Administrator', 'Create a Customer Service Case', 'Manage General Contact', 'Close Organization', 'Manage Organization Relationships', 'Create FCC Form 470', 'Create FCC Form 471', 'Create FCC Form 486', 'Manage Contracts', and 'Create Appeal'. A red arrow points to the 'Manage Organization' option. Below the navigation bar, there are tabs for 'Budget', 'Contracts', 'FCC Forms', 'FRN Appeals', and 'New'. The main content area shows the 'Applicant Type' as 'School District' and 'Status' as 'Active'. Below this, there are fields for 'Phone Number', 'Email', and 'Website URL'.

Applicant Type School District
Status Active

Phone Number
Email
Website URL

C2 Student Count in EPC – Whole District

In this example, after the school district chooses “**Manage Organization**” in the top right corner, **one number for the whole school district** was selected when asked about reporting the student count:

Category Two (C2) Budget Information

We calculate your Category Two budget and your discount rate separately, and so we collect separate numbers for each. You are allowed to re-use your Category Two student count from year to year within a Category Two budget cycle, so this number needs to be updated less frequently than the student count for your discount rate.

How does the district report its student count for Category Two budget? ? *

- ☒ One number for my whole district
- ☐ A number for each school in the district

District Student Count *

91320

In the event an applicant chooses to enter **one number for the whole school district**, their C2 budget is calculated by multiplying that number by \$201.57 per student (or the number of entities multiplied by the funding floor, if that is greater).

C2 Student Count in EPC – Each School

In this example, after the school district chooses “**Manage Organization**” in the top right corner, **a number for each school in the district** was selected when asked about reporting the student count:

Category Two (C2) Budget Information

We calculate your Category Two budget and your discount rate separately, and so we collect separate numbers for each. You are allowed to re-use your Category Two student count from year to year within a Category Two budget cycle, so this number needs to be updated less frequently than the student count for your discount rate.

How does the district report its student count for Category Two budget? ? *

☐ One number for my whole district

☒ A number for each school in the district

Sum of Student Counts of all Schools in the District

1303

School Information

Entity Number or Name

-- Please enter an entity name(at least 3 characters) or an entity number --

APPLY FILTERS

CLEAR FILTERS

Entity Number	Entity Name	Total Students for C2 budget	Is the student count estimated? ?	Eligible for C2 budget?
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This is helpful for school districts with 10 or fewer schools because it allows USAC to maximize the budget.

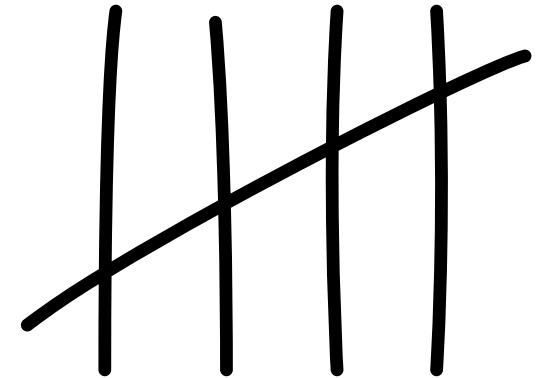
Schools – How To Report Student Counts

School districts report student counts separately for the purposes of calculating C1 discounts and C2 budgets.

- Category One (C1) Discounts – Applicant Information: Number of Full-Time Students
- Category Two (C2) Budgets – Budget Information: Total Students for C2 Budget

Two options for reporting C2 counts:

1. Individual entity profile - Report student counts under C2 Budget Information.
2. Parent entity profile - Report the total student count for the school district under C2 Budget Information or use C2 grid, listing individual children to update C2 enrollment per individual child entity.



Reporting Student Counts in EPC – Independent Entity

Applicant Information

Latitude 42.8712

Longitude -78.8598

Urban/Rural Status Urban

School Sub-Type

- ☒ Public School
- ☐ Private School
- ☐ Pre-K
- ☐ Head Start
- ☐ Adult Education
- ☐ Juvenile Justice
- ☐ Dormitory
- ☐ Charter School
- ☐ Tribal School
- ☐ New Construction School
- ☐ Swing Space
- ☐ Detention Center
- ☐ General-Use School
- ☐ ESA School
- ☐ BIE
- ☐ ESA School District with no Schools

Is this school part of a school district? No

State School Code

State LEA Code

NCES Public State Code

NCES Public District Code

NCES Public Building Code

User-Entered Latitude 42.8712

User-Entered Longitude -78.8598

User-Entered Urban/Rural Status Urban

Community Eligibility Program (CEP)? No

Alternative Discount Method None

Does this organization have an endowment? No

Number of Full Time Students 224

Total Number of Students Eligible for National School Lunch Program (NSLP) 224

Category Two (C2) Budget Information

We calculate your Category Two budget and your discount rate separately, and so we collect separate numbers for each. You are allowed to re-use your Category Two student count from year to year within a Category Two budget cycle, so this number needs to be updated less frequently than the student count for your discount rate.

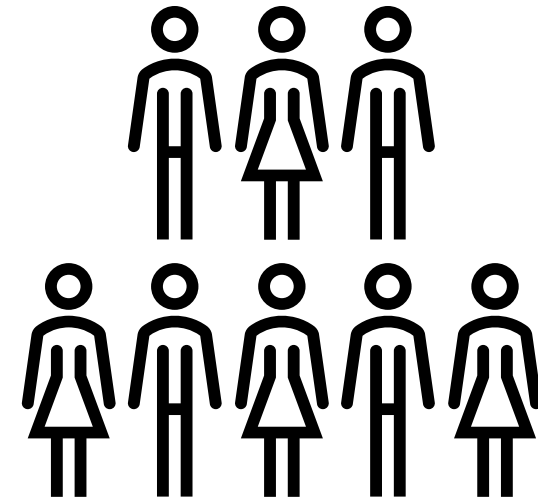
Total Students for C2 Budget 224

Schools – How to Count Students

- Schools can only count **full-time students** for their C2 budget calculations.
- Large school districts (those with 11 or more schools) **may not estimate** the number of students for **buildings under construction**.
- Independent schools and small school districts (10 schools or fewer) can estimate student counts for a new school while construction is underway.
 - If the school overestimates, it must return the excess funding that it was entitled to by the end of the next funding year. The school must file an FCC Form 500, and the funding will be returned to USAC.

Independent, Part-Time-Only Schools

- School districts must count each full-time student **one time** when calculating their district-wide C2 budget.
 - **Only independent schools** that are attended by students from multiple districts on a part-time basis **can** count these students as full-time students.



C2 Library Square Footage in EPC

Screenshots for library square footage for individual libraries.

Library Information

Library Sub-Type *

☐ Public Library

☒ Private Library

Is this library part of a library system?

Yes

Check All That Apply

☐ Academic

☐ Research

☐ Tribal Library

☐ Bookmobile

☐ Kiosk

☐ New Construction Library

☐ Main Branch

☐ Tribal College/University Library (for public use)

Category Two Budget Information

Square Footage *

1000

Square footage must be provided to qualify for Category Two funding.

Library Information

Library Sub-Type *

☒ Public Library

☐ Private Library

Is this library part of a library system?

Yes

Check All That Apply

☐ Academic

☐ Research

☐ Tribal Library

☐ Bookmobile

☐ Kiosk

☐ New Construction Library

☐ Main Branch

☐ Tribal College/University Library (for public use)

☐ State Library Agency - Library

FSCS KEY

FSCS SEQ

Category Two Budget Information

Square Footage *

1000

Square footage must be provided to qualify for Category Two funding.

Calculating C2 Budgets for Districts/Systems with 11 or More Sites

Calculate a Category Two Budget for a School District

- Each system or district receives an aggregated C2 budget.
- For districts with 11 or more schools, the C2 budget is the **greater** of the following:
 - Method 1: The district total **full-time student count** multiplied by the **school multiplier (\$201.57)**.
 - Method 2: The **number of individual schools** multiplied by the **\$30,175 funding floor** (aggregate funding floor).
- Calculating an independent school's budget works the same way, using only their site for the calculation.

Calculate a Category Two Budget for a Library System

For systems with 11 or more branches, the C2 budget is the **greater** of the following:

- Add the **square footage** of each of the library branches and then multiply this total by the **library multiplier (\$5.43)**, or
- Multiply the **number of library branches** in the system by the **\$30,175 funding floor** (aggregate funding floor). Multiply by \$66,385 for Tribal library systems.

Calculating an independent library's budget works the same way, using only their site for the calculation.

For more information, see our [Library FAQs](#).

Calculating Category Two Budgets with 10 or Fewer Sites

School Districts With 10 or Fewer Sites

- **School districts with 10 or fewer sites** have the option to calculate their C2 budgets on a per-site basis and then total the results to optimize their budget.
 - Each site is eligible for **the greater of:**
 - Site student count x \$201.57, **or**
 - \$30,175 funding floor
 - The district's C2 budget is the total of each site.
- The school district allocates this calculated C2 budget among its individual schools (or child entities) as it deems appropriate.

Example Hybrid Calculation – School System

	# Students	Multiplier	Total	Funding Floor
School 1	200	\$201.57	\$40,314	\$30,175
School 2	300	\$201.57	\$60,471	\$30,175
School 3	140	\$201.57	\$28,219.80	\$30,175
School 4	125	\$201.57	\$25,196.25	\$30,175
School 5	130	\$201.57	\$26,204.10	\$30,175
			\$180,405	\$150,875

Hybrid Budget Total = \$191,310

Library Systems With 10 or Fewer Branches

- **Library systems with 10 or fewer sites** have the option to calculate their C2 budgets on a per-site basis and then combine the results to optimize their budget.
 - Each site is eligible for **the greater of:**
 - Site square footage x \$5.43, **or**
 - \$30,175 funding floor (NOTE: Tribal libraries have a \$66,385 funding floor.)
 - The system's C2 budget is the total of each site.
- The library system allocates this calculated C2 budget among its libraries (child entities) as it deems appropriate.

Example Hybrid Calculation – Library System

	Sq Footage	Multiplier	Total	Funding Floor
Library 1	7,000	\$5.43	\$38,010	\$30,175
Library 2 (Tribal)	2,000	\$5.43	\$10,860	\$66,385
Library 3	9,500	\$5.43	\$51,585	\$30,175
Library 4	13,400	\$5.43	\$72,762	\$30,175
Library 5	10,840	\$5.43	\$58,861	\$30,175
			\$232,078	\$187,085

Hybrid Budget Total = \$287,603

Equipment Transfers

Category Two Equipment Transfers

- School districts and library systems can transfer equipment between their associated child entities.
 - They are not required to notify USAC of these equipment transfers.
 - Transferor and recipient must maintain **detailed records** documenting the transfer and the reason for the transfer for at least **five years**.
 - Schools, libraries, and consortia must maintain asset and inventory records of equipment purchased and the actual locations of such equipment for at least 10 years after purchase.

Category Two Equipment Transfers – Recent Scenarios

- Recently, budgeting entities have been experiencing increased site closures and cancellations of expected new site openings after the receipt of a funding commitment.
 - A closure/cancellation may happen **before ordering and installing equipment**.
 - A closure/cancellation may happen **after equipment is ordered but prior to installation**.
- If the equipment has not been installed, it needs to be returned. Alternatively, you may file an appeal (if within 60 days of the Funding Commitment Decision Letter) or an FCC Waiver (if more than 60 days after the Funding Commitment Decision Letter).
 - A closure/cancellation happens **after equipment is ordered and installed**.
 - [Equipment Transfer](#) rules apply. The equipment may be transferred with no need to file an FCC Form 500.
 - The applicant and the entity must maintain detailed records documenting the transfer (and the reason) for five years.

Resources

- [Category 2 Budgets page](#)
- [FY2026-2030 Category Two \(C2\) Budget Management Guide](#)
- [Category Two Budget Tools](#)
- [Eligible Services Overview](#)
- [Document Retention](#)
- [C2 FAQs](#)



Live Q&A

- Submit your questions about today's topics:
 - FY2026 – FY2030, fixed 5-year C2 Funding Cycle
 - C2 Services
 - Calculating Budgets
 - Equipment Transfers

Questions



No questions yet
Questions you send and answers from the staff will appear here

Enter your question

Your question will be sent to staff

Send

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

Monday – Friday 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. ET

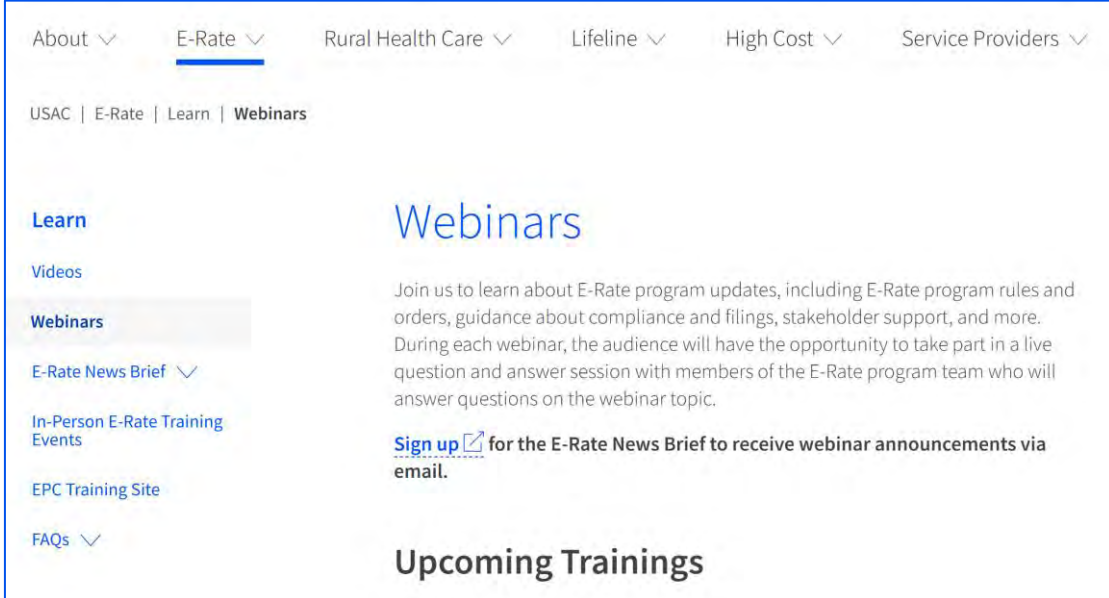


Create a customer service case

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.

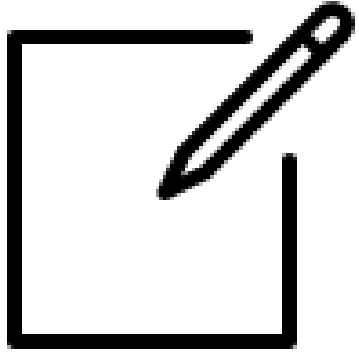
Upcoming Webinars

- Our next webinar is **November 25** on the **Post Commitment**.
- Please visit the E-Rate [Webinars](#) page for additional information.



The screenshot shows the E-Rate Webinars page. The top navigation bar includes links for About, E-Rate (which is highlighted with a blue underline), Rural Health Care, Lifeline, High Cost, and Service Providers. Below this, a breadcrumb trail reads "USAC | E-Rate | Learn | Webinars". On the left side, there is a "Learn" section with a list of links: Videos, Webinars (which is highlighted with a grey background), E-Rate News Brief (with a dropdown arrow), In-Person E-Rate Training Events, EPC Training Site, and FAQs (with a dropdown arrow). The main content area is titled "Webinars" in a large blue font. Below the title, there is a paragraph of text: "Join us to learn about E-Rate program updates, including E-Rate program rules and orders, guidance about compliance and filings, stakeholder support, and more. During each webinar, the audience will have the opportunity to take part in a live question and answer session with members of the E-Rate program team who will answer questions on the webinar topic." Below this paragraph, there is a "Sign up" link with an external link icon, followed by the text "for the E-Rate News Brief to receive webinar announcements via email." At the bottom of the page, there is a section titled "Upcoming Trainings".

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!





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