Determining E-Rate Discounts for Libraries

Overview

A library system, branch, or independent library shares the discount rate of the school district in which the main branch is located. These discount rates range from 20 to 90 percent of the costs of the eligible services and equipment. If the school district in which the central library outlet or main administrative office is located is participating in the E-Rate program, you can view their most recent discount rate for the E-Rate program to get a sense of what the system or library’s discount rate and E-Rate benefits would be if you participated in the program.

For example, a library with a 90 percent discount rate purchasing $1,000 in eligible broadband services would pay its 10 percent non-discount shared costs (i.e., $100) to the service provider. The E-Rate program would pay the remaining 90 percent (i.e., $900) to the service provider.

You may also find more information on how to calculate your discount rate manually on the Calculating Discounts page.

The E-Rate Search Commitments tool can help libraries determine the E-Rate program discount rate of their local school district.

Using the E-Rate Search Commitments Tool

Follow the steps below to determine the discount rate of the school district for the location of your library or discount rate of your main library branch:

1) Upon entering the Search Commitments tool, expand the more button in the top right corner of the page.
2) Select your state in the **Billed Entity State** field and click **Apply**.

3) Select “School District” in the **Organization Entity Type** field and click **Apply**.
4) In the **Applicant’s Organization Name** field, enter the name of your school district and click **Apply**.

5) Make sure that the most recent funding year information for that school district is at the top.
6) Scroll to the right side of the table to locate the Discount Percentage column to locate the current discount rate for the school district.

This value gives you a sense of your discount rate based on the school district for the location of your library for the most recent funding year and may not reflect your actual discount rate for a future funding year.

If you need help to determine your anticipated discount rate for a future funding year, call our Customer Service Center at (888) 203-8100 for assistance.