

## E-Rate Central News for the Week of May 28, 2018

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## Funding Status – FY 2018 and FY 2017

### *FY 2018:*

Wave 7 for FY 2018 was released Saturday, May 26<sup>th</sup> for an undetermined amount. See the article below for details about USAC tool outages. Cumulative funding as of Wave 6 is \$873 million, including \$39.4 million for North Carolina. The next scheduled wave has not been announced.

### *FY 2017:*

Cumulative national funding through Wave 55 is \$2.33 billion, including \$67.7 million for North Carolina. The next scheduled wave has not been announced.

## Updates on USAC’s E-Rate Productivity Center and Legacy System

### *USAC Data Tools Outage*

USAC is currently experiencing an unannounced outage of several tools including: the FRN Status Tool (FST), the Search Commitments Tool and USAC’s Open Data tool pertaining to Form 471 datasets. These tools appear to have gone offline as of Wednesday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>. A “Release Note” found on [USAC’s Open Data web page](#) cites “system issues” while the [FST](#) and [Search Commitments](#) tool state “website maintenance”.

### *“Missing” SPIN Change Module*

The “Landing Page” is typically the point from which any form filing action takes place. It appears that for some users, the SPIN Change button which used to be adjacent to the Service Substitutions button, is missing.



While the hyperlink to the “SPIN Change” module may be missing from your “Landing Page”, you may still be able to access the “SPIN Change” by selecting your entity from the home page.

Welcome, School District 5!

**Notifications**

Notification Type *Please select a value*

Funding Year *-- Select a Funding Year --*

Status  All  
 Generated  
 Not Generated

Notification	Description	Issued Date	Generated By	Generated On
No items available				

**My Entities**

Entity	Entity Number	City	State	Zip Code
School District 5	112	Springfield	NY	11413

Next, select “Related Actions” to access the complete menu of “Related Actions” which includes the option for filing SPIN changes.

## #112 - School District 5

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

- Create a New User**  
This function allows you to create a user for your entity.
- Add or Remove Existing Users**  
This process allows user to add and remove users from an organization
- Manage User Permissions**  
This function allows you manage the permissions for one or more users.
- Manage Organization**  
This function allows you to update information about an entity or BEN.
- Modify Account Administrator**  
This process allows you to transfer the Account Administrator function to another individual.
- Create a Customer Service Case**  
This function allows you to submit a question about an E-rate form or topic. You can also submit a specific request or an attachment.
- Manage General Contact**  
This function allows you to designate the general contact for your entity.
- Manage Organization Relationships**  
Process to relate an Organization to another Organization
- Create FCC Form 470**  
This function allows you to create an FCC Form 470 for your entity.
- Create FCC Form 471**  
This function allows you to create an FCC Form 471 for your entity.
- Create FCC Form 498**  
This function allows you to create an FCC Form 498 for your entity.
- Create FCC Form 486**  
This function allows you to create an FCC Form 486 for your entity.
- Manage Contracts**  
Create, edit, and remove contracts for your organization
- Manage Connectivity Questions**  
Form for Entities to answer required Connectivity Questions.
- Upload Entity Profile Data**  
This function allows you to bulk upload your child schools details
- Create Appeal**  
This function allows you to submit an appeal
- Create SPIN Change Request**  
Action to initiate a SPIN change request.
- Create Service Substitution Request**  
Action to initiate a Service Substitution request.

### Summer Deferral

This week begins the summer deferral period. Typically, the summer deferral period extends to the last Friday (September 7) after Labor Day. Applicants understaffed during the summer have the option of handling PIA inquiries as they come in or may proactively place the review of their applications on hold during the summer deferral period. To request a summer deferral in EPC after receiving a PIA inquiry, click on the “Apply Summer or Winter Deferral” button. Two ways of accessing the “Apply Summer OR Winter Deferral” option within the specified Form 471 are:

#### 1. Within “Review Inquiries”

Records / FCC Forms 471  
18- [redacted] IA and WAN - # [redacted]

RESPOND TO INQUIRIES APPLY SUMMER OR WINTER DEF... SUBMIT MODIFICATION REQUES...

Summary Funding Requests **Review Inquiries** Connectivity Information Discount Calculation Entity Information News Related Actions

### Pending Inquiries

Read	Notice	Name	Outreach Type	Assigned By	Title	Phone #	Assigned Date	Due Date	Extn.	Status
No Pending Inquiries.										

#### 2. Within “Related Actions”

-  **Request Extension**  
Click here to request an extension
-  **Respond to Inquiries**  
Answer Reviewer Questions.
-  **Apply Summer or Winter Deferral**  
Action to opt for Summer or Winter Deferral.
-  **Submit Modification Request (RAL)**  
Submit a RAL Modification Request for this Application

Note: Summer deferrals can only be applied at the Form 471 application level, not at the applicant level. If you need to use this option on all of your applications, be sure to navigate to each Form 471 individually and apply the summer deferral option.

## E-Rate Updates and Reminders

### *Upcoming 2018 E-Rate Dates:*

May 21      FY 2017 Form 486 deadline for funding committed in Wave 36. Other upcoming Form 486 deadlines include:

Wave 37	05/29/2018
Wave 38	06/04/2018
Wave 39	06/08/2018
Wave 40	06/11/2018

Applicants missing these (or earlier) deadlines should watch carefully for “Form 486 Urgent Reminder Letters” in EPC. The Reminders will afford applicants with 15-day extensions to submit their Form 486s without penalty.

The first Form 486 deadline for FY 2018 is not until October 29, 2018.

June 1      Deadline for submitting comments to the FCC re. the NPRM on *Protecting Against National Security Threats to the Communications Supply Chain Through FCC Programs* (see our [newsletter of April 2<sup>nd</sup>](#)). Reply comments are due by July 2<sup>nd</sup>.

June 20      USAC webinar on [Understanding Post-Commitment Actions](#).

June 30      Last day to file a special construction deadline extension request.

July 23      Deadline for submitting Form 470/471 comments.

### *Form 470/471 Comment Period*

The FCC is seeking to extend the approval of current versions of the FCC Forms 470 and 471 which are set to expire at the end of this year. The Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) requires

federal agencies to invite public comment on federal forms. This notification was [issued on May 22, 2018](#) in the Federal Register and specifically seeks comment on the following topics:

1. Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Commission, including whether the information shall have practical utility;
2. The accuracy of the Commission's burden estimate;
3. Ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information collected;
4. Ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on the respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology; and
5. Ways to further reduce the information collection burden on small business concerns with fewer than 25 employees.

The public comment period is open until July 23, 2018. To submit formal comments, email Nicole Ongele, FCC, via email [PRA@fcc.gov](mailto:PRA@fcc.gov) AND to [Nicole.Ongele@fcc.gov](mailto:Nicole.Ongele@fcc.gov).

#### *Bill supporting Wi-Fi on School Buses:*

On Thursday, May 24th, Senator Tom Udall (D-NM) and Senator Cory Gardner (R-CO) introduced a bill to support Wi-Fi on school buses. This bi-partisan bill would mandate the FCC to provide E-rate support for Wi-Fi access on school buses. The effort undertaken by these Senators is a direct action to combat the “homework gap” that exists for those students who do not have Internet access at home. In the most rural of counties, students travel over an hour to school and Wi-Fi on school buses has the potential to provide those students with much needed Internet access on their long commutes. Stipulations of this bill include:

1. School buses are designed to carry a driver and not less than five passengers;
2. School buses are used significantly to transport early child education, elementary school or secondary school students to or from school or an event related to school; and
3. No later than 180 days after the enactment of the Act, the FCC shall conduct a rulemaking to allow for Wi-Fi on school buses to be eligible for E-rate funding.

#### **USAC News Brief Dated May 25 – Special Construction Deadline Reminder**

[USAC's Schools and Libraries News Brief of May 25, 2018](#), reminds applicants of the June 30<sup>th</sup> deadline to complete FY2017 special construction required to light or use the fiber. USAC itemized four reasons an applicant can utilize this option and applicants must be prepared to demonstrate when seeking a special construction deadline extension that their situation applies to one of the following:

1. USAC issued your FCDL after February 2018 and special construction did not begin until you received the FCDL;
2. USAC has not yet issued your FCDL and special construction has not yet begun;
3. USAC has not yet issued your FCDL and you opted to commence special construction, but that work began after February 2018; or

4. A detailed explanation of why construction for your project has been unavoidably delayed and the June 30 deadline to light the fiber cannot be met despite receiving an FCDL and/or commencing special construction in February 2018 or earlier. Relevant details include the date that you received your FCDL (or statement that the FCDL has not been received yet), the date that you started special construction, the breadth and complexity of the fiber build project, and any other factors relevant to your particular circumstances (e.g., weather, terrain) that caused the delay.

The method of filing for the one-year extension is dependent on whether you have received your FCDL. If you have already received your FCDL, complete the [FCC Form 500](#) and follow the Form 500 instructions. If you have not received your FCDL, download a copy of the [FY2017 Special Construction Deadline Extension Request worksheet](#). Complete the worksheet and submit to customer service within EPC.

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*Newsletter information and disclaimer: This newsletter may contain unofficial information on prospective E-rate developments and/or may reflect E-Rate Central's own interpretations of E-rate practices and regulations. Such information is provided for planning and guidance purposes only. It is not meant, in any way, to supplant official announcements and instructions provided by the SLD, FCC, or NCDPI.*

*Additional North Carolina specific E-rate information is available through our Web site — <http://www.e-ratecentral.com/us/stateInformation.asp?state=NC>. Note that this site provides easy access to formatted North Carolina applicant E-rate histories via the Billed Entity Number ("BEN") search mechanism in the upper left-hand corner. Detailed information can be obtained by "drilling down" using the links for specific funding years and individual FRNs.*

*For further information, follow E-Rate Central on Twitter, Facebook, and LinkedIn.*



*If you have received this newsletter from a colleague and you would like to receive your own copy of the North Carolina E-Rate Forum, send an email to [join-ncerate@lists.dpi.state.nc.us](mailto:join-ncerate@lists.dpi.state.nc.us). Please include your name, organization, telephone, and e-mail address.*

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