

Charter Schools and E-rate

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E-RATE: DON'T **DISS** THE DISCOUNT!



What is it?

E-RATE

- Created as part of the Telecommunications Act of 1996
- Funding generated through the Universal Service Fund
- \$3.9 billion annual budget
- All schools and libraries eligible to participate
- Two categories of service



Category 1

E-RATE

- Internet Access
- Data Transmission



Category 2

E-RATE

- Internal Connections
 - Access Points
 - Routers
 - Switches
 - Cabling
 - Racks
 - UPS
- Basic Maintenance of Internal Connections
- Managed Internal Broadband Services



Discount Matrix

E-RATE

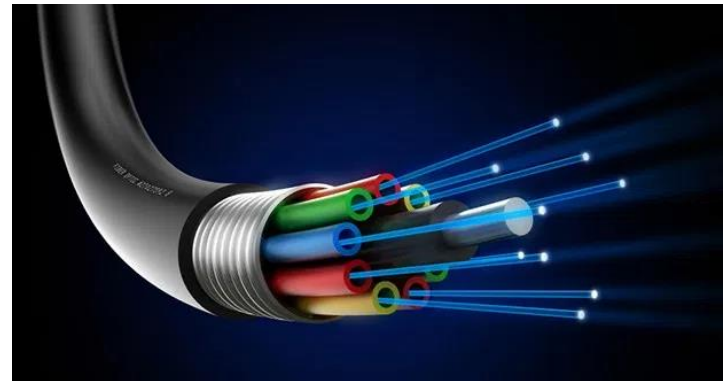
INCOME Measured by % of students eligible for the National School Lunch Program (NSLP)	CATEGORY ONE		CATEGORY TWO	
	URBAN Discount	RURAL Discount	URBAN Discount	RURAL Discount
Less than 1%	20%	25%	20%	25%
1% to 19%	40%	50%	40%	50%
20% to 34%	50%	60%	50%	60%
35% to 49%	60%	70%	60%	70%
50% to 74%	80%	80%	80%	80%
75% to 100%	90%	90%	85%	85%



How do I get funding?

E-RATE

- Category 1
 - Internet – NCREN (state network, free)
 - Free firewall, content filter
 - Second connections?
 - Need to file now!
 - PRC036



How do I get funding?

E-RATE

- Currently: Category 2
 - School budget (5 year)
 - ADM x FCC Multiplier (\$159.67)
 - State contracts/vendors
 - Forms and process
 - 100% covered by E-rate and NCDPI
 - PRC036



To get started....

E-RATE

- Contact information
 - Northeast Region, North Central,
 - Jeannene Hurley, jeannene.hurley@dpi.nc.gov
 - Southeast, Sandhills, Piedmont Triad
 - Rebecca Martin, rebecca.martin@dpi.nc.gov
 - Southwest, Northwest, West
 - Roxie Miller, roxie.miller@dpi.nc.gov



LINKS

E-RATE

[Eligible Services List for 2019](#)

[Selecting a Service Provider](#)

[E-Rate Handbook](#)

[NC E-rate Website](#)



REMINDERS

- BEAR deadline is October 28, 2019
 - SPI deadline also
 - Check with your vendor
- File 498
 - Two step process
- Get a PIN
- If you cannot make the October 28 deadline:
 - File the Invoice Extension Deadline Request (IDER)

Needs Assessment

E-RATE

- Contact MCNC IMMEDIATELY to get on the schedule for a needs assessment
 - cne@mcnc.org
 - (client network engineering)



FILE Form 470's NOW!

E-RATE

- Determine needs for FY 2020-2021
 - Use Eligible Services List as a guide (ESL)
- Prepare Request for Proposal (RFP) (if needed)
- File Form 470
 - If RFP is being used, it **MUST BE UPLOADED** with Form 470
- A minimum of 28 days is required before opening and evaluating bids begins



Preparing for Vendor Selection

- Evaluate bid responses
 - ✓ Use matrix with price being primary weighted factor
 - ✓ Document each bid response according to your organization's policies / procedures
 - ✓ Document the date meeting is held, ensuring a minimum of 28 days has elapsed after Form 470 was posted
 - ✓ Document meeting attendees and any minutes of the meeting
- Present the proposals to the Board (if needed)
- Sign contracts – pay attention to the DATES!
- Calculate discount (with school nutrition)
- Prepare to file FORM 471

2019 Reminder EPC, PIA and PQA **E-RATE**

- Answer all questions in EPC as quickly as possible
- Contact your Regional E-rate Specialist for issues:
 - With your PIA or PQA reviewer
 - Submitting responses in EPC
 - Adding your CFO in the portal, filing 498 or uploading bank verification



- We are sending data on awards every week to NCDPI finance so it should be a relatively quick turnaround. We have "net 30" payment terms on our contracts, so you could
 - Generate your FCDL and PRINT
 - File the 486
 - Create and send the PO to your vendor
 - Get your gear (and or installation scheduled)
 - Receive PRC money
 - Pay your vendor their “non-discounted” money

Questions?

