

THE FRONTIER E-RATE TOOLKIT

E-Rate 2023

Applying for E-Rate funding can be a full-time job. Each stage of the process has its own set of deadlines to meet and forms to fill. Keep this timeline handy to ensure you're on track to secure your E-Rate discount for the upcoming year.



Fiscal Year 2023-2024

Not sure where to begin?

Our team of E-Rate specialists has extensive knowledge of the latest E-Rate rules, regulations, processes, deadlines and more. We've helped so many customers like you, and we can help you too. To learn more, connect with a Frontier E-Rate expert at FundingPrograms@FTR.COM.

Form 470: Competitive Bidding

July 1, 2022 – February 2023

Form 471: Application Window to Request Discounts

January 2023–March 2023

Form 486: Service Start Date and CIPA Certification

120 days from: FCDL (Funding Commitment Decision Letter) or service start date (whichever is later), October 30, 2023

Recurring Service Delivery Dates

By June 30, 2024

Form 472: BEAR Invoicing Deadline for Recurring Services

October 28, 2024

Non-Recurring Equipment or Service Delivery Dates

No later than June 30, 2024

Form 472: BEAR Invoicing Deadline for Non-Recurring Equipment or Services

October 28, 2024

E-Rate at a Glance

More Opportunity for All

For schools and libraries facing funding gaps, E-Rate is the key that unlocks affordable devices for all. For more than 20 years, Frontier has been a trusted E-Rate provider, helping organizations secure the funding and connectivity they need to communicate, educate and inspire. Refer to our at-a-glance guide for a rundown on how E-Rate works and how it can benefit you.



Want to speak to a Frontier Business E-Rate expert directly

The team at Frontier is ready to answer your questions. Email us at **FundingPrograms@FTR.COM**.

About E-Rate

The Schools and Libraries Program, more commonly known as E-Rate, is a federally funded program established in 1997 that provides discounts on Internet access and telecom services for eligible schools and libraries. Service discounts can range from 20% to 90%.

Administration

E-Rate is administered by the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) under the direction of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).

Eligibility



Schools

- Must operate as a nonprofit business
- Must provide K-12 education, not college
- Includes Head Start, pre-K, juvenile justice, and adult and special ed
- Cannot have grants exceeding \$50 million
- Includes support facilities for school use only
- Includes consortia



Libraries

- Must operate as a nonprofit business
- Budget must be separate from any school budget
- Includes support facilities for library use only
- Cannot gain assistance from state library agency via Library Services & Technology Act
- Includes consortia

Quality Services

Each year, the FCC releases the Eligible Services List (ESL) for the upcoming funding year. The list includes a description of the products and services that are eligible for E-Rate discounts and is divided into two categories of service:



Category One

- Data transmissions services and/or Internet access



Category One

- Internal connections
- Managed internal broadband or managed WiFi
- Basic maintenance of internal connections

The full Eligible Services List is available on usac.org. The list is updated each year by the FCC before the Form 471 application filing window opens.

Service providers

To find a service provider, applicants for E-Rate funding must open a competitive bidding process by posting a Form 470 through the USAC website's E-Rate Productivity Center. Applicants then receive and evaluate bids from service providers.

Frontier and E-Rate

At Frontier, we combine high-speed connectivity with deep E-Rate know-how. The result? Frontier customers save an average of 76%* on our high-speed data connectivity. Our team of E-Rate specialists have guided many customers like you —and they're ready to help you, too.



Application Process

All funding applicants need to follow these six steps:

1. Open competitive bidding for desired services ([Form 470](#))
2. Select service providers
3. Apply for discounts ([Form 471](#))
4. Undergo application review
5. Start services ([Form 486](#))
6. Invoice USAC for the E-Rate discount ([Form 472](#))



Quick Links

- ✓ [Frontier E-Rate](#)
- ✓ [E-Rate Blog](#)
- ✓ [USAC E-Rate Fund Administration](#)
- ✓ [FCC E-Rate Page](#)

Get in touch with one of our experts



FundingPrograms@FTR.COM



or visit us at enterprise.frontier.com/rate

and take the first step toward funding relief

Ask Us Anything

We know you've got questions, and we're standing by to help. Our team of E-Rate specialists have guided many customers like you, through the ins and outs of the funding process. We're here to help you access the funding relief you need— and get back to what matters most.

- **How is the E-Rate program funded?** E-Rate is funded through the Universal Service Fund (USF). The USF is responsible for compensating vendors for the amount of the discount. The E-Rate program is administered by the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) and overseen by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).
- **Is my organization eligible for E-Rate funding?** Public and private K-12 schools and nonprofit public libraries are eligible for E-Rate discounts. Not sure if your institution qualifies? A full list of eligibility requirements is available **on the E-Rate website**.
- **What kind of discount can my organization get through E-Rate?** E-Rate discounts range from 20% to 90% of eligible technology expenses. Frontier customers see an average of 76%* savings on our data connectivity.
- **What services are eligible for E-Rate funding?** Internet access and related equipment are eligible for E-Rate discounts. Eligible products or services must be used for educational purposes. A **full list of eligible services** is updated each year on the USAC website.
- **How do I apply for E-Rate funding?** The first thing E-Rate applicants must do is make an account with USAC's E-Rate Productivity Center, or EPC. This is the management portal for the E-Rate program. Next, applicants must file FCC Form 470 through the EPC to formally begin the bidding process. A more detailed explanation of the application process is available on the USAC website.
- **How do I choose a service provider?** To apply for E-Rate funding, applicants must conduct a fair and open competitive bidding process. The bidding period must be open for at least 28 days. Once the bidding process is closed, applicants may evaluate the bids and select their service provider.
- **Can my current service provider be my E-Rate partner?** Yes. If you currently receive service from a provider, you can ask your current provider to submit a bid in response to your FCC Form 470. If your current service provider is Frontier, get in touch!

E-Rate for Education

What You Need To Know

As learning increasingly moves online, access to the Internet is more critical than ever to student success. But not every school has the budget to secure the connectivity students need. That's where E-Rate comes in. This federally funded program is designed to fill the technology funding gap by providing discounts on Internet and telecommunications services.



How E-Rate can help

Here's just a small sampling of the products and services E-Rate funding can help you cover:

- Internet access (Ethernet, broadband, wireless)
- Managed Firewall
- Managed Wireless



Have more questions?

Our E-Rate specialists have the answers



Email a Frontier Business E-Rate expert at FundingPrograms@FTR.COM.



School eligibility requirements

Before you go any further, confirm that your school is eligible for E-Rate funding. According to the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC), schools applying for E-Rate funding:

- Must operate as a nonprofit business
- Must provide K-12 education, not college
- Include Head Start, pre-K, juvenile justice, and adult and special ed
- Cannot have grants exceeding \$50 million
- Include support facilities for school use only
- Include consortia of schools and libraries



E-Rate by the numbers

- **1996** Year the E-Rate program was established
- **20% to 90%** Range of discounts E-Rate offers on eligible services
- **117,300** Number of sites receiving E-Rate discounts in 2019 according to the **2019 E-Rate Trends Report by Funds for Learning**
- **\$4.15 billion** Funding cap for FY 2019, according to the **FCC**
- **94%** Percent of E-Rate applicants who say E-Rate funding is vital to their Internet connectivity goals, according to the **2019 E-Rate Trends Report by Funds for Learning**



Frontier and E-Rate

- **Remote learning** High-speed bandwidth supports remote connectivity for pandemic response strategies, including HD streaming video and interactive content
- **Student safety** Cloud security tools allow IT administrators to protect student data
- **Certified reliability** Thousands of miles of fiber over our MEF 2.0 certified network
- **High performance** 99.99% uptime service-level agreement
- **Dependable partner since 1935** Empowering communications for generations
- **Serious savings** Frontier customers see an average of 76%* savings on data connectivity



Frontier's top tips for E-Rate success

- **Plan for your technology future** Outline a plan for your technological modernization over the next 3-5 years and decide when to apply for funding for each initiative.
- **Involve everyone** It's crucial that IT and school leadership work together to identify top networking priorities.
- **Follow all the guidelines** Make sure you understand every step of the E-Rate application process. To receive funding, you must adhere to all government guidelines. Don't leave money on the table by skipping a step!

"I'm passionate about helping schools close the digital divide. With a strategic E-Rate application and our high-speed connectivity, it's possible."

Denise McIntosh,

E-Rate Customer Success Manager, Frontier Business

Ready to bring more opportunity to all? Frontier is standing by to help. Our E-Rate specialists have guided thousands of customers through the E-Rate funding process.

Chat with a Frontier E-Rate expert at
FundingPrograms@FTR.COM

Applying for E-Rate Funding

A Step-By-Step Guide

The E-Rate program is a funding lifeline for schools and libraries that need access to high-speed Internet and telecommunications. But to get that funding, you'll need to do a little homework. Our E-Rate experts at Frontier have broken down the application process step by step to help you understand everything you need to do to secure the resources you need.

Want to chat with the experts directly? Get in touch with the Frontier E-Rate team at FundingPrograms@FTR.COM.



Before you apply

- Review the **description** of the E-Rate program on the USAC website.
- Confirm your organization's **eligibility** for the E-Rate program by checking the USAC website's definition of a school or library.
- Review the **Eligible Services** List on the USAC website to ensure the services your organization needs are eligible for E-Rate funding.
- Make an account with USAC's **E-Rate Productivity Center**. This is the management portal for the E-Rate program.
- Obtain a **billed entity number** for your organization if you don't already have one assigned.



Start competitive bidding

- Begin the competitive bidding process by submitting an FCC Form 470 (Description of Services Requested and Certification). The bidding process must be open for at least 28 days.
- After the bidding process has closed, it's time to select your service providers. Evaluate the bids you've received and sign a contract, if applicable.



Apply for discounts

- Request discounts on your eligible services by filing FCC Form 471 (Description of Services Ordered and Certification Form) through the E-Rate Productivity Center.
- Answer any follow-up information requests from the Program Integrity Assurance (PIA) reviewers at USAC.
- Receive your Funding Commitment Decision Letter (FCDL) from USAC.



Start Services

- File FCC Form 486 (Receipt of Service Confirmation and Children's Internet Protection Act Certification) to confirm that your services have started, and invoicing can begin.



Invoicing

- File FCC Form 472 (Billed Entity Applicant Reimbursement) if you've paid your service provider in full and want to be reimbursed for the discount amount.
- Receive your reimbursement from USAC.

Overwhelmed by the application process?

The Frontier E-Rate team is ready to help. We've been a trusted E-Rate provider since the program's beginning, supporting thousands of E-Rate customers along the way. Our specialists have extensive knowledge of the latest rules and regulations, and their sole focus is helping applicants like you get the best E-Rate discount possible. **Take the first step in the E-Rate process with a Frontier Business expert at FundingPrograms@FTR.COM**