

Department of Education and Early Development (DEED)

FY2027 E-Rate Program

School Finance • E-Rate Support

E-Rate Support School Finance

The federal E-Rate program provides Internet connection and related services to eligible schools and libraries. DEED School Finance team provides E-Rate support to Alaska school districts, public and tribal libraries.

1 Step 1 Form 470 Competitive Bidding



Formal process to identify and request equipment and service that schools/libraries need. **Administrative Window** opens for business entity profile updates (student counts, NSLP, etc.).

Timeframe:
July 1, 2026 – January 2027

2 Step 2 Select Service Providers



Use bid evaluation matrix to evaluate the bids received and choose the bid that is the most cost-effective.

Timeframe:
28-day period from FCC 470

3 Step 3 Apply for Discounts



File FCC Form 471 (Description of Services Ordered and Certification Form) to request discounts on eligible services and equipment for the upcoming funding year.

Timeframe:
USAC announces (around March)

4 Step 4 Application Review



USAC Program Integrity Assurance (PIA) reviewers check information on Form 471 for completeness and accuracy, may request additional information or clarification.

Timeframe:
Form 471 submission to Funding Commitment Decision Letter (FCDL)

5 Step 5 Starting Service



Before starting services, submit Form 486, certifying compliance with Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA).

Timeframe:
FCDL to 120 days after service start date

6 Step 6 Invoice USAC



Districts/Libraries invoice USAC for the discount portion of the bill for the approved eligible services.

Timeframe:
Service start date to 120 days after the last day to receive service



Next E-Rate Funding Year

Prepare for the next funding year and begin the process again.



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One Portal (E-Rate Productivity Center)



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