

1. What is E-Rates?

A 19-year old Federal program that provides schools with 20%-90% funding to help pay for:

- ✓ High speed Internet Access for their school and students.
- ✓ Local and Long Distance services for their school.
- ✓ Purchase and installation of Wi-Fi infrastructure and equipment: access points, controllers, switches, cabling and more.

2. Where do the E-Rate funds come from?

Every telephone bill includes a charge called Universal Service Fund (USF) that is paid to the FCC as an excise tax.

The FCC allocates \$3.9 Billion of those charges to be distributed to public and private schools as “E-Rates” annually.

3. Is my private school eligible for E-Rates?

Every non-profit elementary and secondary school with under \$50 Million in endowment is eligible for E-Rates.

4. What percentage of my costs for eligible services will E-Rates cover?

E-Rate funding for high speed internet is between 20% and 90%. Almost all private schools receive at least 40% for internet access.

E-Rate funding for eligible Wi-Fi equipment and infrastructure is between 20% and 85% - almost all private schools receive at least 40% for Wi-Fi equipment and infrastructure.

E-Rate funding for local and long distance service is 10% - 50%

5. Why do some schools get 90% and some schools get only 20% E-Rates?

Schools with a higher percentage of low-income students get a higher percentage of E-Rates. For example:

Schools with: 1% - 19% low income students will receive 40%.

20% - 35% low-income students will receive 50%.

50% - 75% low income students will receive 80%.

6. How do we document our low-income student percentage?

Schools have three ways to document their low-income students:

1. Your school participates in the National School Lunch Program.
2. Your third-party financial aid service (SSS, PSAS, FACTS, SMART, etc), can give you a low-income report. They have much experience with E-Rates.
3. You can distribute an income survey to all students and use a summary of the results. **eRateProgram, LLC** can supply survey forms.

7. Do we have to provide any personal information about any student as part of the process?

No personal information about any student is ever required.

8. Can I find out how much E-Rate funding our school could receive before considering filing for E-Rates?

eRateProgram, LLC offers a free E-Rate Benefit Analysis of your expected E-Rate discount level and potential E-Rate funding for 2016-2017.

9. How complicated is the E-Rate filing? How long does it take?

Schools typically spend 30-40 hours of staff time over the 18-month E-Rate filing/funding cycle.

Our clients spend between 4-6 hours of staff time over the 18-month E-Rate filing/funding cycle.

10. How can I make E-Rates work for our school?

Call or email eRateProgram, LLC. We will provide you with a free E-Rate Benefit Analysis, detailing all the funding for which you are eligible. This includes new Wi-Fi equipment installation and maintenance.

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