

E-RATE: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. What is E-Rate?

The Schools and Libraries Program of the Universal Service Fund (USF), commonly known as "E-Rate," provides discounts for telecommunication services (e.g., local and long-distance calling, high-speed lines), Internet access, and internal connections (the equipment to deliver these services) and maintenance of internal connections. It is a discount or reimbursement after services have been received and paid.

2. What does BridgeWave offer?

Founded in 1999, BridgeWave Communications is the leading supplier of wireless gigabit solutions for enterprise, service provider, and government networks, including municipal and military applications. BridgeWave's products utilize the upper millimeter-wave radio spectrum in the recently-allocated 60-90GHz range, enabling multi-gigabit per second wireless connectivity at affordable price points.

BridgeWave has a network of experienced distributors and resellers worldwide, making it today's leading high capacity, high frequency solutions provider to address private networks and service providers.

3. How does BridgeWave's solution fit into the E-Rate program?

BridgeWave products can be classified, for E-Rate purposes, in the following ways:

- When included as part of an "end-to-end" telecommunications or Internet solution, as customer premise equipment that is owned by a network operator or service provider, they can qualify as Priority 1.
- When purchased by a school, school district, or library as internal connections (or in the context of basic maintenance of such connections), they can qualify as Priority 2.

Compliance with all program rules is essential in order for any vendor's products to qualify for this program.

4. Who or what is USAC?

The Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) was appointed by the FCC to administer the USF program, although FCC retains responsibility for overseeing the program's operations and ensuring compliance with its rules. USAC's Schools and Libraries Division is responsible for carrying out the E-Rate program's day-to-day operations.

5. How will a school's eligibility level be determined?

A school's eligibility level is defined by the percentage of its students eligible for either a free or reduced price lunch program.

% of students eligible for the National School Lunch Program	DISCOUNT: URBAN LOCATION	DISCOUNT: RURAL LOCATION
Less than 1%	20%	25%
1% to 19%	40%	50%
20% to 34%	50%	60%
35% to 49%	60%	70%
50% to 74%	80%	80%
75% to 100%	90%	90%

6. What if I have specific questions regarding the E-Rate program?

The USAC SLD Client Service Bureau is available to answer questions:

Schools and Libraries Program

Universal Service Administrative Company

Schools and Libraries Program

P.O. Box 7026 Lawrence, KS 66044-7026

Toll-Free: (888) 203-8100

Fax Toll-Free: (888) 276-8736

Email: http://www.slforms.universalservice.org/EMailResponse/EMail_Intro.aspx

7. What Products and services are eligible through E-Rate?

Please check the [SLD Web site](#) and

http://www.universalservice.org/res/documents/sl/pdf/els_archive/2008-eligible-services-list.pdf

for both Eligibility and Eligible Services as the list changes every year. Services and products may be eligible, not eligible, or conditionally eligible for support. The schools and libraries Eligible Services List provides details about eligible equipment and services and the conditions under which they are eligible.

8. What is the application window for E-Rate?

In the broadest sense of the E-Rate program, the "application window" refers to the range of dates from when it first becomes possible, in a given funding cycle, to file a Form 471 (the main application form), through the 471 deadline. (Applications may be filed after the deadline, but the chances of funding for late applications are miniscule.) The range of dates changes annually and has not yet been announced for the upcoming funding cycle. Typically, the "window" will be several months ending in late January or early February, for the funding year starting on the next July 1. However, the most important "window" is the range of dates starting 28 days after the filing of a Form 470 (and optional RFP) by a school/district, but

prior to the 471 deadline. Contracts must be signed and dated within this range in order for funding to be approved. Signing sooner than 28 days violates the competitive bidding requirements; and signing after the 471 is filed violates the 471 certification requirements. For the upcoming funding cycle, it is already possible for schools to file Form 470 (and optionally post an RFP), allowing for a longer-than-usual window after the 28 day waiting period.

9. How can I find out the latest on e-rate?

Latest information on e-rate is available at <http://www.universalservice.org/sl/tools/latest-news.aspx>

10. Do I need a new SPIN for each year?

No. Your SPIN number need not change every funding year.

11. Where can I find an overview of the E-Rate application process?

<http://www.usac.org/sl/about/overview-process.aspx>