Eligible Services for E-Rate FY2027 (Draft)

Category 1:

Telecommunications – Voice – no longer eligible – this includes both landline and cellphones as well as all supporting services (PRI Lines, SIP trunks etc). WAN or Internet lines supporting VoIP are still eligible.

Telecommunications – Data – no changes to discount rate
- Data Lines / WAN / Fiber (any technology)
- Wireless / Fiber / Radio Links

Internet Access
- Access Lines/Ports - any technology/ any speed
- DNS/DHCP/Firewall/Managed Router Services may be included

As of 09-30-2025 per FCC decision, Hotspots and Bus WiFi are no longer eligible for E-Rate support.

Category 2: FY2027 is the second year of a new 5-year cycle for Category 2 Budgets (2026-2030).

1. Your school or district budget for Category 2 will be $201.57/student over the five years 2026-2030. This is a pre-discount amount and represents the total amount over 5 years. For example; if you have 1000 students then you have $201,570.00 to spend on Category 2 items over those 5 years. The amount of your reimbursement is based on your discount rate.
2. This amount is no longer tied to individual schools and the equipment purchased is allocated to the district overall – not to individual schools. Thankfully – you now have only a single, district-wide Cat2 budget to manage.
3. Your budget amount is based on your enrollment when you first file for Category 2. Your original 5 year budget amount should stay the same regardless of changes in enrollment after that (it can go up but now down).

Eligible Items for Category 2:

Internal Connections *(may include Project Management. Installation and Configuration)*
- Cabling / Connectors / Racks (fiber and copper)
- UPS Equipment
- Wired LAN/WAN - Switches / Routers
- Wireless LAN/WAN – Access Points / Controllers
- Firewalls (Basic firewall & OS only – no layered products)
- Caching Servers

BMIC – Basic Maintenance of Internal Connections
- Break/Fix Maintenance of all eligible equipment
- Software Upgrades, Tech Support

MIBS (Managed Internal Broadband Services)

This is a fixed fee management of your WiFi network. Can be equipment that you already own or it can be a 'service' where the vendor retains ownership of equipment. Benefit is that this eligibility includes network management. See SLD's definition below.