



CONNECTING K-12 WITH ERATE AND ARUBA

Wireless access is cheaper, easier and more flexible than pulling cables and now, with Aruba Networks multimedia-grade Wi-Fi, it also offers adequate performance for new mobile devices and interactive curriculum. E-Rate is a critical funding resource to help make this happen. The federal government, through Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC), offers E-Rate discounts on Aruba products in an effort to make connectivity affordable for all schools.



ARUBA WIRELESS LANS AND E-RATE

The increased use of laptops and mobile devices like e-Textbooks and tablet PCs in K-12 has created a unique opportunity to improve the quality of teaching and learning. But the utility of both mobile devices and educational applications is a function of access to the networks on which these tools depend—limitations to network access prevent the realization of their full potential.

This is where E-rate and Aruba can help. Aruba's is eligible for E-Rate funding and provides:

- **Multimedia-grade Wi-Fi** - maximizing application performance in dense classroom deployments
- **Wired-like reliability over the air** – maintaining high availability for mission-critical learning applications
- **“No-Touch” overlay installation** - easily adding high performance Wi-Fi on top of any existing wired network.
- **Centralized multi-vendor management** – for central network operations that simplify troubleshooting of mobility issues and lower IT overhead

ELIGIBLE PRODUCT

Aruba applies to Priority 2 E-rate funds under the category of “Internal Connections”. The following products qualify for funding under E-rate’s Eligible Services List for the current funding year (see:

<http://www.universalservice.org/sl/tools/eligible-services-list.aspx>).

- Data Distribution
 - Aruba **Controllers** and **Access Points** are eligible to “distribute information from telecommunication or Internet access facilities all the way to individual classrooms”
- Data Protection

- Aruba's **Policy Enforcement Firewall** is eligible to "ensure the continued operation of eligible equipment by protecting equipment and computer files from environmental or security hazards"
- Remote Access
 - In some cases **VIA** and **Remote Access Points** may be eligible to provide access to "eligible locations." Remote access cannot be provided to "homes or other non-school or non-library sites."
- Basic maintenance
 - **Maintenance and technical support** is covered to the extent that services are "necessary to enable the continued operation of the eligible equipment." It includes: repair and upkeep, basic technical support, and configuration changes.

WHAT'S NEW IN E-RATE FOR 2011

The FCC recently approved changes to E-Rate that are applicable to Aruba

- **Learning On-the-Go** - This is a separate grant-like program that supports off-campus wireless connectivity for mobile learning devices. Aruba has the unique capability to be deployed in a remote configuration, thus extending a school's network almost anywhere.
- **School Spots** – Schools will now have the option to use E-Rate to fund Internet access to the local community after students go home. This is a new opportunity to create wireless hotspots that accommodate those outside of the school community.

FAMILIARIZING YOURSELF WITH E-RATE

The federal government funds E-rate discounts to US schools for technology projects through the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC). The E-rate funding calendar follows a strict evaluation and purchasing cycle, making it critical to monitor program deadlines. The availability of these funds and project timing depend on a few key filings:

- **Form470:** Describes the products and services that a school or district wants funded. After filed, the evaluation process begins. Form 470s can be filed year round but are typically filed starting late summer and continuing through January of the following year. Approval of the Form 470 will lead to creation of a Form 471.
- **Form471:** Show intent to purchase a specific service or product through a service provider. These funding applications can be filed as quickly as 28 days from the filing of the Form 470, but not before early December and not after mid-February (unless otherwise specified)
- **Form486:** Provides notification that services have begun and that invoices can be paid at the discounted value. Funding for projects typically start mid-summer and is available in waves.

APPLICATION PROCESS AT A GLANCE

