

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

YOUR E-RATE QUESTIONS ANSWERED

HAVE YOU RECEIVED YOUR E-RATE FUNDING?

Did you know, since 2015, all applicants who submitted an eligible and timely E-rate application will receive their funding? Many schools have not taken full advantage of their entire Category Two budget, often leaving available funding unrequested. Don't leave money on the table, apply now!

WHAT IS E-RATE?

The Universal Service Schools and Libraries Program - commonly known as the E-rate program - provides discounts on telecom, internet access, and internal connections to eligible schools and libraries.

HOW IS E-RATE FUNDED?

E-rate is funded through the Universal Service Fund (USF).

WHO LEADS/ADMINISTRATES THE E-RATE PROGRAM?

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) writes the rules and standards for this program. The administrator of the E-rate program is the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC).

WHAT KIND OF DISCOUNT CAN MY SCHOOL GET?

E-rate discounts range from 20% to 90% of eligible project costs. Discounts are district wide, and an applicant's discount rate is determined by the percentage of students that qualify for a free or reduced-price lunch.

HOW DO I CHOOSE A SERVICE PROVIDER?

E-rate applicants must conduct a fair and open competitive bidding process. All applicants must select the most cost-effective service provider. The price of the eligible products and services must be the most heavily weighted bid evaluation factor.

WHAT CAN YOU TELL ME ABOUT THE FIVE-YEAR C2 FUNDING CYCLE?

The FCC's Category Two Report and Order (FCC 19-117) established the rules, C2 budget multipliers, and the funding floor for the fixed, five-year funding cycles. The C2 budget multipliers and the funding floor for each five-year funding cycle are set once at the beginning of the cycle and apply to the entire cycle. The first five-year C2 budget funding cycle began in FY2021 and runs through FY2025.

WHY SHOULD I APPLY FOR E-RATE FUNDING THIS YEAR?

Due to stimulus funding programs, devices and connections on campus have increased substantially, putting an overwhelming demand onto the network. Utilizing FY2023 funding, along with federal stimulus that can be used for your non-discounted portion, can provide the resources you need to build out a reliable and sustainable network infrastructure.

HOW DO I APPLY FOR E-RATE FUNDING?

To apply for E-rate funding, simply follow the 6-step process outlined in Figure 1. Click on each box to learn more about the various steps in the process.

HOW CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION ABOUT E-RATE?

To learn more about the E-rate application and approval process, USAC offers a variety of training resources to assist schools and libraries. Visit www.usac.org/e-rate/get-started/ for more information. You can also email Aruba's team of E-rate experts at erate@hpe.com.



Figure 1: Six simple steps to apply for E-rate funding



WHY SHOULD I CHOOSE ARUBA SOLUTIONS FOR MY SCHOOL?

Aruba provides a range of access solutions, from the data center to the edge. We deliver the broadest portfolio of 802.11ax WLAN products, core, and edge multi-gig SON-capable switches, and an industry-leading limited lifetime warranty. All with a flexible architecture that lets you choose what type of management works best for you: On-premise, Virtual or Cloud, using the same hardware. And that's just the start. To learn more about all of the Aruba Solutions for How Tomorrow Learns, visit our [K-12 Webpage](#).

HOW DO I DETERMINE IF ARUBA PRODUCTS ARE E-RATE ELIGIBLE?

It's important to note that not all Aruba solutions are E-rate eligible. You can find eligibility of Aruba products using our [E-rate Eligibility Lookup Tool](#). The following table highlights products that are eligible under the current E-rate program.

WHAT IF I HAVE ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS ABOUT ARUBA'S E-RATE OFFERING?

Simply email erate@hpe.com to get more information about Aruba's products and services, or to be connected with an Aruba value added reseller.

E-RATE ELIGIBLE*		NOT ELIGIBLE UNDER INTERNAL CONNECTIONS*	
<p>CATEGORY TWO INTERNAL CONNECTIONS</p>	<p>CATEGORY TWO MIBS</p>	<p>SECURITY/ANALYTICS/MANAGEMENT/LBS</p>	<p>ELIGIBLE UNDER MIBS/NOT ELIGIBLE UNDER INTERNAL CONNECTIONS</p>
<p>Basic Maintenance of Internal Connections Aruba Foundation Care <small>Restrictions Apply</small></p>		<p>* Based on E-rate Funding Year 2022 Eligible Services List</p>	

Aruba E-rate Eligibility Tool



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