# FY2026 E-Rate Program

# **E-Rate Support**

School Finance

The federal E-Rate program provides Internet connection and related services to eligible schools and libraries. DEED School Finance team provides E-Rate support to Alaska school districts, public and tribal libraries.



#### Step 1 Form 470 Competitive Bidding

Formal process to identify and request equipment and service that schools/libraries need. **Administrative Window** opens for business entity profile updates (student counts, NSLP, etc.)

#### Timeframe:

July, 2025 - January 2026

Step 2

Select Service Providers

Use bid evaluation matrix to evaluate the bids received and choose the bid that is the most cost-effective.

#### Timeframe:

28-day period from FCC 470



### Step 3

Apply for Discounts

File FCC Form 471 (Description of Services Ordered and Certification Form) to request discounts on eligible services and equipment for the upcoming funding year.

# Timeframe:

USAC Announces (around March)



#### Step 4 Application Review

**USAC Program Integrity** Assurance (PIA) reviewers check information on Form 471 for completeness and accuracy, may request additional information or clarification.

# Timeframe:

Form 471 submission to Funding Commitment Decision Letter (FCDL)



#### Step 5 Starting Service

Before starting services, submit Form 486, certifying compliance with Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA). Timeframe:

FCDL to 120 days after service start date



Districts/Libraries invoice USAC for the discount portion of the bill for the approved eligible services.

# Timeframe:

Service start date to 120 days after the last day to receive service



Next E-Rate Funding Year

- Universal Service Administrative Co. (USAC)
  - Program participants can receive assistance by calling (888) 203-8100 Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. ET.
  - E-Rate Productivity Center (EPC)
    - Log in to One Portal to access EPC.
    - Select the Contact Us link from the upper right menu on your landing page
    - New EPC users should call (888) 203-8100 to set up a new user account.
- Department of Education and Early Development
  - Program Coordinator -- Faye Tanner
    - Email: eed.erate-support@alaska.gov
    - Phone: 907.269.7979