

Expert advice and tips for K-12 education IT providers on how to gain the maximum out of the E-Rate experience.

What is E-Rate Funding?

The Schools and Libraries Program of the Universal Service Fund, commonly known as “E-Rate,” is administered by the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) under the direction of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). It assists most schools and libraries in the United States by providing discounts to obtain affordable telecommunications and Internet access. It is one of four support programs funded through a Universal Service fee charged to companies that provide interstate and/or international telecommunications services.

Stay Organized with a Consultant

Work with a competent and reputable E-Rate consultant. It’s easy to miss a deadline, fail to document your evaluation process correctly or use the wrong wording when responding to an audit question. Don’t risk the loss of funding you deserve.

Follow the 2:5 Rule

The 2-in-5 rule means that school districts need to have a good plan and anticipate their needs 3-5 years out. Districts that apply for what they need today may come up short by the time their project is funded and executed

Maximize your E-Rate Benefits with a Technology Partnership

Make sure you work with a competent and ethical technology partner that has the interests of the district – students, teachers, administrators – clearly in focus. They should understand your business, the E-Rate process as well as the nuts and bolts of the technology they represent. Be very cautious with vendors who offer to help you with activities such as your technology plan preparation, your bid document, your evaluation matrix or 470 filing. These activities are expressly prohibited by the E-Rate program.

Prepare for the Long Term

Revisit your scope of work when you finally receive funding. Don’t follow the plan you made 18 months ago if it doesn’t meet your future needs. Within the confines of the rules established for the E-Rate program, incorporate reasonable flexibility in your application that will accommodate some degree of change through service substitutions (if necessary).

Schedule and Postpone

Don’t give back dollars you need. If you don’t have 100% of your portion of the project when it funds, there are ways to postpone and extend a project to span multiple budget years.


Planning Ahead for Future Projects

If you have schools that are not likely to receive E-Rate funding (<75% FRL report), plan to move equipment from funded schools 3 years later. This means you need to purchase equipment that will be up to the task in years 3-7 of its useful life.



Jeff Billings

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School District



“The experience working with Logicalis was first rate. They knew exactly what they were doing and accomplished their tasks right on time. We value Logicalis as a long-term technology partner and look forward to bringing more projects to life with them.”

What can we do for your organization?

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Contact Logicalis to learn how we can help.

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Why Logicalis

Logicalis provides a customized approach to meeting and exceeding your requirements. We directly align our Service Plan with your goals, provide quick resolution, dedicated support and a solution-oriented approach to each unique service plan. In addition, we provide you with enhanced communication as we resolve service tickets.

We take a proactive approach to maintenance that further helps you realize increased efficiency across your district allowing you to focus on the users instead of the infrastructure. Logicalis has experts in each area of your technology solution, ready to deploy, ensuring that optimum results are already reached.

How Can Logicalis Help You?

Logicalis specializes in supporting K-12 technologies in:

Unified Computing & Networking Solutions

— Networking, Access Control, Collaboration, Management and Security.

Wireless Microwave — Wireless Wide Area Network (WWAN), Point-to-Point, Point-to-Multipoint, Liscensed and Unliscensed.

Structured Cabling — Fiber Optic and Copper Connectivity