

E-Rate Admin Window, Eligible Services, Category 2 Budgets



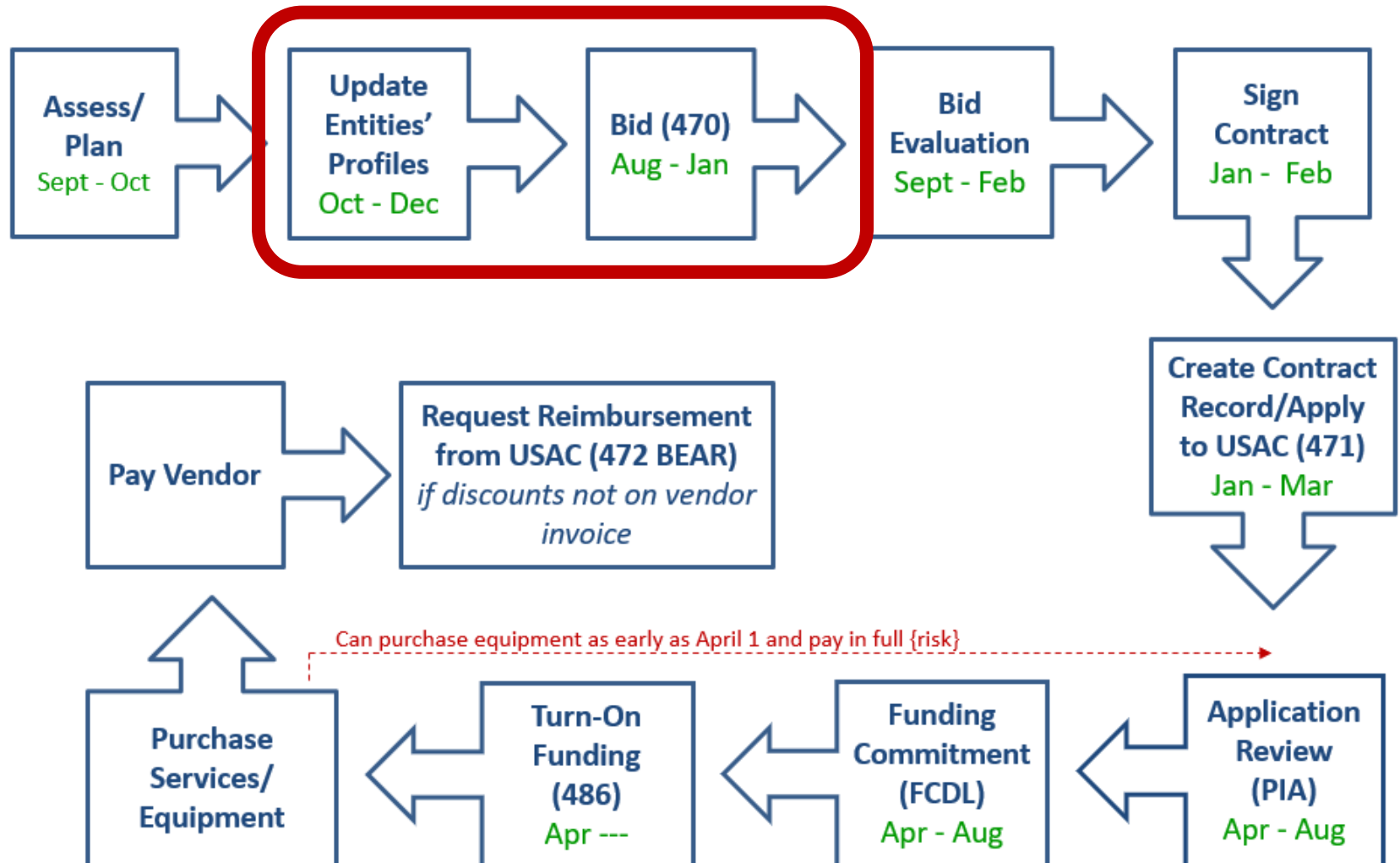
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You are here in the FY 2026 E-Rate process:



What is the Admin Window?

- For FY 2026, Admin Window opens Wednesday, October 15, 2025 and the closing date is TBA but likely to be around January 9th
- Update entity profiles with current NSLP and enrollment numbers, and accurate name, address and building attributes
- System automatically computes discount percentage and Category 2 budget
- The entity profile information is automatically imported into each FCC Form 471
- Consortia 471s will automatically pull the discount data from each consortia member's EPC profile

Source Data for Enrollment/NSLP #s

- Schools typically use the enrollment/NSLP data submitted to the State Department of Education on their October NSLP Claim Form
 - Although you can use more recent data, the official DOE data is what USAC's PIA team uses to validate your data
 - If you use different data, just be prepared to justify that data during your PIA review
- Sometime in mid-to-late December, the State DOE will provide the State E-rate Coordinator with the draft data that has not yet been finalized.
 - Schools technically have until the end of the calendar year to update this data
 - Draft report also contains CEP % and CEP base year for schools using CEP
 - Upon request from a school official the State E-rate Coordinator will share the draft data for the district or school
 - Schools that do not participate in the NSLP program must use alternate method to identify students who meet the income guidelines to qualify for NSLP
 - Use alternate data collection such as income survey
 - Review Tab 10, pp. 9-14 of Fall 2025 E-Rate Resource Manual
 - online at <https://doe.sd.gov/ofm/documents/Erate-10.pdf>

UPDATING DISCOUNT DATA IN SCHOOL PROFILES



EPC Navigation to Modify Entity Enrollment & NSLP Data

From your Landing Page...

My Applicant Landing Page



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Welcome, [Lawrence South Dakota School District!](#)

Step 1: Click on a district's name to see their profile data

Step 2: Click "Discount Rate" to see a list of schools for your entity

Records / Applicant Entities

#120 - Lawrence South Dakota School District

[Summary](#) [Customer Service](#) [Modifications](#) [Additional Information](#) [Discount Rate](#)

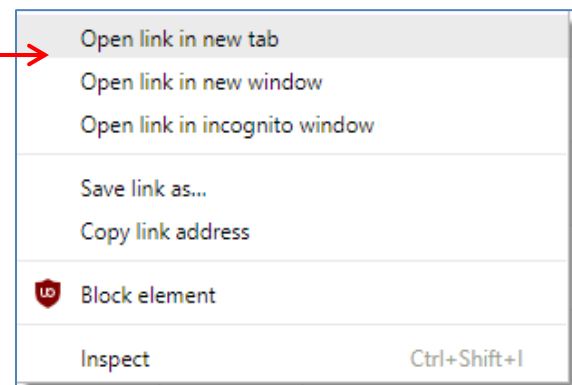
Opening Each School's EPC Profile

Step 3: Click "Show Entities" and the list of schools will appear (not NIFs)

School District Full-time Enrollment	School District NSLP Count
5761	4820
SHOW ENTITIES	

Organization	BEN
Lawrence High School	122
Lawrence Primary School	121

Step 4: Right Click on each school name and select "Open link in new tab."
Do this consecutively for each school name on the list. This will create a tab at the top of your browser – one for each school.



Editing Each School's EPC Profile

Step 5: Click on the tab for the first school, and then click “MANAGE ORGANIZATION” to open the “editable” version of the page.

The screenshot shows a web browser window with three tabs: '#120 - Lawrence South', '#122 - Lawrence High S', and '#121 - Lawrence Primar'. The address bar shows 'portal-training.usac.org/suite/tempo/reco...'. The navigation bar includes 'News', 'Tasks (3)', 'Records', 'Reports', and 'Actions'. The main content area displays 'Records / Applicant Entities' and '#121 - Lawrence Primary School'. Below this, there are several tabs: 'Summary', 'Modifications', 'Additional Information', 'Category Two Budget', 'Contracts', 'FCC Forms', 'News', and 'Related A'. The 'MANAGE ORGANIZATION' button is highlighted with a red box.

Edit the School's Profile Data:

NON CEP Schools

Step 6: Scroll down the page to the Enrollment and NSLP data and update.

Enter Enrollment Data



Number of Full Time Students *

3457

Community Eligibility Program (CEP)? *

☐ Yes

☒ No

Enter NSLP Eligibility Data



Total Number of Students Eligible for National School Lunch Program (NSLP) ? *

2892

Alternative Discount Method *

None

Indicate if an alternative discount mechanism was used to calculate the number of students eligible for NSLP

Edit the School's Profile Data: CEP-Participating Schools

Step 6: Scroll down the page to the Enrollment and CEP % data and update.

Enter Enrollment Data

Number of Full Time Students *

3457

Community Eligibility Program (CEP)? *

☒ Yes

☐ No

This figure is calculated automatically based on enrollment and CEP% data x 1.6.

Select "Yes" under CEP? Then enter CEP % and select Base Year

Total Number of Students Eligible for National School Lunch Program (NSLP) ? *

2213

CEP Percentage *

40

CEP Base Year *

2025

Total Number of Students Eligible for National School Lunch Program (NSLP) ? *

3457

The number of students eligible for the National School Lunch Program cannot exceed the total number of full time students. Because your CEP Percentage makes the number of students eligible for NSLP exceed your total number of full time students, the number of students eligible for NSLP is now set to equal the number of full time students. This change will not affect your E-rate discount calculation.

CEP Percentage *

75.00%

If $CEP \% \times 1.6 > 100\%$ you will see this message.
In this example $75\% \times 1.6 = 120\%$

Codes = Optional

- These code fields are all optional. If you try entering data and receive a red error message, just erase the data and submit

State School Code
106172003
State LEA Code
NCES Public State Code
NCES Public District Code
NCES Public Building Code
FCC Registration Number ?
0012722211

Modification Nickname Action Required

- After you “submit” the updated data, the system will ask you to give the modification a nickname

Organization Modification Nickname

All changes to your organization can be seen on the Modifications page found in the menu on your left under Modifications. Please enter a short description of the modification made in the field below.

Modification Nickname *

CANCEL

SUBMIT

- You can simply click the space bar to proceed to Submit

Returning to the List of Schools

- To update the next school's data, click on the next tab, then Manage Organization to make the form “editable.”



The screenshot shows a web browser with three tabs: '#120 - Lawrence South Dakota Sci', '#122 - Lawrence High School', and 'Edit Organization Information'. The address bar shows the URL 'portal-training.usac.org/suite/tempo/records/item/IMB0YLZsM4yuY0N6bx2pGHWU-FkqFcd37sG3...'. The page has a blue header with navigation links: 'News', 'Tasks (3)', 'Records', 'Reports', and 'Actions'. Below the header, the page title is 'Records / Applicant Entities' followed by '#122 - Lawrence High School'. A horizontal menu contains links: 'Summary', 'Modifications', 'Additional Information', 'Category Two Budget', 'Contracts', 'FCC Forms', 'News', and 'Related Actions'. On the right side, there is a button with a document icon and the text 'MANAGE ORGANIZATION', which is highlighted with a red rectangular box.

Reviewing Your Discount Rate

Step 7: After you've updated the data for each school, return to the first tab, which will be the Discount Rate page. Click on Discount Rate again for the discounts to update

Step 8: Ensure your data is accurate

- *If they do not match the totals you have, click on “SHOW ENTITIES” to determine where the inaccurate data exists*

[Records](#) / [Applicant Entities](#)

#120 - Lawrence South Dakota School District



[Summary](#) [Customer Service](#) [Modifications](#) [Additional Information](#) **[Discount Rate](#)** [Category Two Budget](#) [Contracts](#)

[FCC Forms](#) [FRN Appeals](#) [News](#) [Related Actions](#)

Requested Discount Rate - Lawrence South Dakota School District (BEN: 120) - FY2025

More than 50 percent of your individual schools must be rural for the school district to be considered rural. (Swing spaces are not considered.)

This discount rate has not been approved for the current year

School District Full-time Enrollment	School District NSLP Count	School District NSLP Percent	School District Urban/Rural Status	Category One Discount Rate	Category Two Discount
5761	4820	84%	Rural	90%	85%

Reviewing Your Discount Rate

- If you receive this message, it means there is data missing from one or more schools in your district

The information in your organization's profile is not sufficient to calculate your Discount Rate.

- Click 'Show Entities' to determine which school(s) have problems

				School District Full-time Enrollment	School District NSLP Count
				5761	4820
				SHOW ENTITIES	
Organization	BEN	Total Number Of Students Enrolled In School	Total Number Of Students in School Eligible For NSLP		
Lawrence High School	122	2304	<div></div>		
Lawrence Primary School	121	3457	2892		

If a field is blank, this is where the problem exists

Updating School 'Subtypes'

- If one of your schools qualifies for one or more of the school subtypes, select those designations on that school's EPC profile page:

Check All That Apply [Show Help](#)

☐ Pre-K

☐ Head Start

☐ Adult Education

☐ Juvenile Justice

☐ Dormitory

☐ Charter School

☐ Tribal School

☐ New Construction School

☐ Swing Space

☐ Detention Center

☐ General-Use School

☐ ESA School

☐ BIE

Updating Data after Admin Window

- After the Admin Window closes in early January, the school profile data will be “locked down” and the Form 471 window will open
 - It will not be possible for Applicants to update this data in EPC after the Admin Window closes
 - If new schools open after the 471 window opens, call USAC at 888-203-8100 and they will try to figure out a work-around in these rare situations
 - After the Admin Window closes, corrections can be made to Entity profile data by using the RAL Correction Process once the Form 471 has been submitted
 - PIA will review the RAL correction during the application review
 - Not ideal and likely will delay the approval of your application

UPDATING CATEGORY 2 ENROLLMENT DATA FOR SCHOOLS



Category 2 Budget Calculation Data


- School Category 2 budgets are calculated based on student enrollment
- C2 enrollments must be entered separately in EPC for each school entity's profile
- **VERY IMPORTANT FOR FY 2026:** This is the first year of a new 5-year C2 budget cycle. To ensure your C2 budgets are accurately computed, you **MUST** provide updated C2 enrollments in each school entity's profile.
- If you opt to spread out your C2 budget and apply again in a later year, you are not required to update your C2 enrollments in later years, but **you may do so if advantageous** (for example when your overall student enrollment has increased from the prior year)

Where to Update C2 Enrollment Data


- Schools enter their Category 2 enrollment data under “Manage Organization” at the bottom of the page in a section called “Category Two (C2) Budget Information”
 - In this section, districts can enter their district-wide enrollment total, or their school-level enrollments
 - Data entered on a school’s EPC profile will NOT be transferred to the C2 budget page
- *Why would a district want to update enrollment at the school building level instead of using the aggregate district-level enrollment? \$\$\$*
 - If a district has 10 or fewer schools, and any of those schools has fewer than 150 students, it will be advantageous for the district to enter enrollment data by school so the EPC system will use the “hybrid” method of calculating C2 budgets, thus giving the district a higher budget
 - Districts with 11 or more schools are not eligible to use the hybrid method but if you have several buildings with fewer than 150 students, it makes sense to enter the school level data to ensure the system calculates the most advantageous budget possible.

Updating C2 Budget Profile

[News](#) [Tasks \(2\)](#) [Records](#) [Reports](#) [Actions](#)

 Appian

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Welcome, [THE BEST SCHOOL DISTRICT - \(PARENT ENTITY\)](#)!

Updating C2 Budget Profile

Manage Organizations

Existing Organizations

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Billed Entity Name	City	State
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	THE BEST SCHOOL DISTRICT - (PARENT ENTITY)	Springfield	PA

CANCEL

MANAGE ORGANIZATION

Updating C2 Budget Profile

Scroll to the bottom of this page until you see this:

Modify An Organization

Name *
THE BEST SCHOOL DISTRICT - (PARENT ENTITY)

Organization Type
Applicant

Physical Address

Address Line 1 *
100 Main Street

Address Line 2
Apt 2

City *
Springfield

State *
PA

Zip Code *
19064

Zip Code Extension

County *
Please select a County

Please ensure that the address, city, state, and zip code are correct

Mailing Address

☒ Mailing address is the same as physical address.

Category Two (C2) Budget Information

C2 Budget Information Section

This is the section you're looking for on the Manage Organization Page

Category Two (C2) Budget Information

We calculate your Category Two budget and your discount rate separately, and so we collect separate numbers for each. You are allowed to re-use your Category Two student count from year to year within a Category Two budget cycle, so this number needs to be updated less frequently than the student count for your discount rate.

How does the district report its student count for Category Two budget? ⓘ *

- ☐ One number for my whole district
- ☒ A number for each school in the district

Sum of Student Counts of all Schools in the District

5761

School Information

Entity Number or Name

--Please enter an entity name(at least 3 characters) or an entity number--

APPLY FILTERS

CLEAR FILTERS

Entity Number	Entity Name	Total Students for C2 budget	Is the student count estimated? ⓘ	Eligible for C2 budget?	
109	Plainfield Elementary School	349	N/A	✓	EDIT
10597	Gallaudet Elementary School	234	N/A	✓	EDIT

How to Enter C2 Enrollment Data

A) Select **“One number for my whole district”** if:

- 1) No schools have < 150 students, or
- 2) There are more than 10 schools in district

... then enter the district-wide student enrollment in the text box

How does the district report its student count for Category Two budget? ? *

- ☒ One number for my whole district
☐ A number for each school in the district

District Student Count *

B) Select **“A number for each school in the district”** if:

- 1) At least one school has < 150 students, and
- 2) There are more than 10 schools in district

... then enter each school's enrollment data in the fields below

How does the district report its student count for Category Two budget? ? *

- ☐ One number for my whole district
☒ A number for each school in the district

If Entering Enrollment by School (B)

Entity Number	Entity Name	Total Students for C2 budget	Is the student count estimated? ?	Eligible for C2 budget?	
109	Plainfield Elementary School	115	N/A	✓	EDIT

Click 'EDIT' and the enrollment field becomes editable.

Entity Number	Entity Name	Total Students for C2 budget	Is the student count estimated? ?	Eligible for C2 budget?	
109	Plainfield Elementary School	115	N/A	✓	UPDATE
10597	Gallaudet Elementary School	227	N/A	✓	EDIT
10598	Boone Middle School	344	N/A	✓	EDIT
10599	Franklin High School	555	N/A	✓	EDIT
10600	Bluford Middle School	1234	N/A	✓	EDIT
10601	Guggenheim Elementary School	456	N/A	✓	EDIT
10602	Anderson Elementary School	1234	N/A	✓	EDIT

Enter the enrollment data, then click 'UPDATE.'

Don't Forget to 'Submit'

- After entering the district-wide enrollment or the school building enrollment data, be certain to click the Submit button at the bottom of the page:



SUBMIT

- If the data isn't 'submitted,' it won't be captured by the system and used to calculate your C2 budget

Alternative Method of Entering C2 Data

- If using option B (entering enrollment by school), and if also updating each school's enrollment and NSLP data for the year, applicants can update their C2 enrollment at the bottom of each school's EPC profile page
 - This data is then updated on the district's Manage Organization page for that school
 - Entering the enrollment in the discount calculation section will NOT update the C2 enrollment data
 - Those two datasets are not linked

LIBRARY UPDATES TO DISCOUNT & C2 INFORMATION



Updating Library Profile Information

My Applicant Landing Page



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Welcome, [Ind Library 10071](#)!

[Funding Request Report](#) | [FCC Form 470](#) | [FCC Form 471](#) | [FCC Form 486](#)
| [Appeal](#) | [IDD Extension](#) | [FCC Form 500](#) | [SPIN Change](#) | [Service](#)
[Substitution](#) | [Manage Users](#) | [Manage Organizations](#) | [EPC E-Rate](#)
[Invoicing](#) | [USAC Website](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Help](#)

Manage Organizations

Existing Organizations

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Billed Entity Name	City	State
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ind Library 10071	Rockville	MD

CANCEL

MANAGE ORGANIZATION

Updating Library Profile Info

Modify An Organization

Name *

Physical Address
Address Line 1 *

Address Line 2

City *

State *

Latitude / Longitude
User-entered Latitude ?

User-entered Longitude ?

Organization Type
Applicant

Zip Code *

Zip Code Extension

Click the button below to get standard USPS address

County *

Please ensure that the address, city, state, and zip code are correct
Please Specify *

Please enter the name of the county and ensure that it is spelled correctly

Latitude ?

Longitude ?

Update name and address information if necessary

These fields can be left blank

Updating Library Profile Info

Mailing Address

☒ Mailing address is the same as physical address.

Address Line 1
Address1

Address Line 2

City
Rockville

State
MD

Zip Code
20850

Zip Code Extension

County
Montgomery

Update mailing address if necessary

Other Methods of Contact

Phone Number *

Ex. 000-000-0000

Phone Number Extension

Email

Website URL

Library Information

Library Sub-Type *

☒ Public Library

☐ Private Library

Check All That Apply

☐ Academic

☐ Research

☐ Tribal Library

☐ Bookmobile

☐ Kiosk

☐ New Construction Library

☐ Main Branch

☐ Tribal College/University Library (for public use)

☐ State Library Agency - Library

Select any applicable Library Info/Attributes

Is this library part of a library system?

No

C2 Budget & School District Linkage

Scroll to the bottom of this page until you see this:

Category Two Budget Information

Square Footage *

1240

Square footage must be provided to qualify for Category Two funding.

Associated School District

BEN	NAME	CITY
306	School District 10001	Rockville

If this library is no longer a main branch, please unselect the Main Branch Checkbox

Search for School Districts

BEN Search

State Search

Please select a value

Name Search

Zip Code Search

CLEAR FILTERS

SEARCH

FCC Registration Number

0123456789

CANCEL

SUBMIT

Make sure square footage of the building is accurate. Square footage includes public and non-public areas of the building.

Confirm that the associated school district is where the library is located. If not use the search function to find the correct district.

C2 Budget Information Section

This is the section you're looking for on the Manage Organization Page

Category Two (C2) Budget Information

We calculate your Category Two budget and your discount rate separately, and so we collect separate numbers for each. You are allowed to re-use your Category Two student count from year to year within a Category Two budget cycle, so this number needs to be updated less frequently than the student count for your discount rate.

How does the district report its student count for Category Two budget? ⓘ *

- ☐ One number for my whole district
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Sum of Student Counts of all Schools in the District

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School Information

Entity Number or Name

--Please enter an entity name(at least 3 characters) or an entity number--

APPLY FILTERS

CLEAR FILTERS

Entity Number	Entity Name	Total Students for C2 budget	Is the student count estimated? ⓘ	Eligible for C2 budget?	
109	Plainfield Elementary School	349	N/A	✓	EDIT
10597	Gallaudet Elementary School	234	N/A	✓	EDIT

How to See Updated C2 Budget \$

- Use USAC's C2 Database at:
- <https://opendata.usac.org/E-rate/E-rate-C2-Budget-Tool-FY2021-/8z69-hkn7>
- Updated nightly
- Use filters and enter Billed Entity Name or Billed Entity Number (BEN)
NOTE: the new budget cycle information is not going to be available until mid to late October

**C2
Budget**

BEN	Bille...	City	State	Appl...	Cons...	C2 B...	Child...	C2 B...	Full T...	Libra...	Scho...	Libra...	C2 B...
125326	ALBERT G...	UNIONTO...	PA	School DI...	Intermedi...	FY2021-2...	8	Per Site B...	3,317		\$167.00		\$553,939...

CATEGORY 2 BUDGET OVERVIEW



FY 2026 – 2030 NEW C2 Budget Cycle

- Let's review:
 - Each billed entity receives a five-year prediscount budget for purchase of Category 2 equipment and service
 - The prediscount amount is multiplied by your E-Rate discount to quantify E-Rate funding amount
 - The funds can be spent at any time during the five years
 - At the end of the fifth year all unspent funds are forfeited and zeroed out

Budget Multipliers

- **Multiplier**
 - Per student multiplier is $\$201.57 \times \# \text{ students}$
 - Minimum floor amount is $\$30,175$ and is activated when a school has less than 150 students or a library has less than 5,558 square feet
 - Tribal libraries have a higher minimum floor amount of $\$66,385$
- **Entities can use either method that produces the highest amount**
- **Small districts or library systems – 10 or fewer buildings have a third option called the “hybrid” method**
 - Calculate budget for each building separately.
 - if you have schools with enrollments of less than 150 students, or libraries with less than 5,558 square feet, you can claim the minimum amount for those buildings and then use the applicable multiplier for the larger buildings
 - Add up the building totals to determine your total prediscount budget

C2 Budget Status Settings

- Applicants will be required to validate their student counts or library square footage in the first year they apply for C2 support during the FY2026-2030 cycle.
- Each billed entity begins with a **Forecast budget** based on your EPC profile
- Once a Form 471 is certified, the status changes to **Preliminary Budget**
- After PIA review is completed, the status changes to **Confirmed Budget** and will remain in effect through FY 2030 unless you request a “replacement” budget in FY 2027 – 2030
- **Replacement Budget** is when a school’s enrollment or library’s square footage increases after their C2 budget is **confirmed**, the C2 budget information is updated in EPC & the entity requests a replacement budget
 - Note that decreases in student enrollment or library square feet do not have to be reported in EPC after the entity’s C2 budget is **confirmed**. If the budget is not yet confirmed, the information must be updated with current information

How to See Updated C2 Budget \$

- Use USAC's C2 Database at:
- <https://opendata.usac.org/E-rate/E-rate-C2-Budget-Tool-FY2021-/8z69-hkn7>
- Updated nightly
- Use filters and enter Billed Entity Name or Billed Entity Number (BEN)

The screenshot shows the USAC C2 Budget Tool interface. On the left, a 'Filters (4)' panel is open, showing filters for State (SD), Applicant Type (School District), City (ABERDEEN), Billed Entity Name (Select...), BEN (Select...), Consulting Firm Name (CRN) (Select...), and C2 Budget Cycle (FY2026-2030). A red dashed arrow points from the 'Billed Entity Name' filter to the search results on the right. The search results show 'Billed Entity Name' is 'is', with a search bar containing 'Search all values'. Below the search bar, the results are labeled 'LABEL A - Z' and '(No value)'. The first result is 'ABERDEEN SCHOOL DISTRICT 6-1'. At the bottom right of the search results, there are 'Reset' and 'Apply' buttons. The 'Apply' button is highlighted with a red dashed box.

C2 Forecasted Budget


The screenshot shows the results table from the C2 Budget Tool. The table has columns for BEN, Billed..., City, State, Appli..., Cons..., C2 Bu..., Child ..., C2 Bu..., Full T..., Librar..., Scho..., Librar..., C2 Bu..., and C2 Bu... The first row of data shows BEN 134200, Billed... ABERDEE..., City ABERDEEN, State SD, Appli... School Di..., Cons..., C2 Bu... FY2026-2..., Child ... 10, C2 Bu... Per Site B..., Full T... 4,250, Librar..., Scho... \$201.57, Librar..., C2 Bu... \$856,672..., and C2 Bu... Forecast. A red box highlights the 'C2 Bu...' column, and a red arrow points to it from the text 'C2 Forecasted Budget' above.

BEN	Billed...	City	State	Appli...	Cons...	C2 Bu...	Child ...	C2 Bu...	Full T...	Librar...	Scho...	Librar...	C2 Bu...	C2 Bu...
134200	ABERDEE...	ABERDEEN	SD	School Di...		FY2026-2...	10	Per Site B...	4,250		\$201.57		\$856,672...	Forecast

How to See C2 Budget In EPC

- After updating EPC profiles, use the C2 Budget tab in EPC

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Welcome [Lawrence South Dakota School District!](#)

Records / Applicant Entities

#120 - Lawrence South Dakota School District

 [CREATE A NEW USER](#) [ADD OR REMOVE EXISTING USERS](#) [MANAGE USER PERMISSIONS](#) [...](#)

[Summary](#) [Customer Service](#) [Modifications](#) [Additional Information](#) [Discount Rate](#) [Category Two Budget](#) [Contracts](#) [FCC Forms](#)

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Category Two Budget information presented below reflects data starting in FY2016.

✓ **2026 - 2030**

✓ **2026 (Budgeted Entity)**

> [Show column definitions](#)

Budget Status	Budget	Total In-Review Requested Costs	Total Committed Costs	Total In-Review Requested and Committed Costs	Remaining Budget	
Forecast	\$181,413.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$181,413.00	View Details

ELIGIBLE SERVICES OVERVIEW



Category 1 Services

- **No School Bus Wi-Fi or Off-Campus Wi-Fi eligibility - rescinded**
- Most common services are internet access and/or broadband wide area network circuits to interconnect multiple buildings
- Many, but not all, school districts receive their internet connections from the state network, with direct connections to their buildings
 - Some districts have their own wide area network, and the state network will deliver internet to the district's hub site
 - These districts will need to procure their own WAN circuits
- Schools not on-net with the state network may need to purchase their own internet connection or wide area network circuit
 - Examples: Non-public schools, tribal schools, colony schools, libraries that are not on the state network
 - Note: some libraries already receive internet via the state network when they are connected through local government agencies

Category 2 Eligible Equipment & Services

- Central network equipment and service for delivering internet inside school and library buildings
- 3 current subcategories
 - Equipment – “Internal Connections” (IC)
 - Maintenance – “Basic Maintenance of Internal Connections” (BMIC)
 - Managed Internal Broadband Services (MIBS)

C2 Internal Connections

Component	Component
Access Points	Uninterruptible power supply/battery backup for eligible equipment
Antennas	Wireless controller
Connectors	Software/operating systems of eligible equipment
Cabling	Licenses (right to use) for eligible equipment
Caching	Virtualized (cloud based) functionalities
Basic firewall functionality	Bundled warranty included in price (not separate fee)
Switches	Installation, configuration of eligible equipment
Routers	Basic training on use of equipment
Racks	

BMIC Proposed Simplification

- FCC has issued draft FY2026 Eligible Services List and **proposes** to move all manufacturer support licenses from BMIC to IC!
 - Software supporting IC to distribute high-speed broadband throughout school buildings and libraries, as well as bug fixes, security patches, and remote technical support or configuration to support IC
- This means that prepaid multi-year support licenses will be eligible to be funded in the first year of purchase, just like Right-to-Use Licenses
- This would eliminate the historical confusion and discrepancy between BMIC and RTU licenses
- Prediction that this will be adopted in the final Eligible Services List because it's widely supported by stakeholders

BMIC – What's Left?

- Basic maintenance and technical support appropriate to maintain reliable operation when provided for eligible broadband internal connections.
- This includes:
 - Repair and upkeep of eligible hardware.
 - Wire and cable maintenance.
 - Configuration changes performed in person, on-site.
- Special requirements:
 - The agreement or contract must specifically identify the eligible internal connections covered, including product name, model number, and location
 - Support for basic maintenance will be paid for **the actual work performed under the agreement or contract**

BMIC Exclusions

- Services that maintain ineligible equipment
- Upfront estimates that cover the full cost of every piece of eligible equipment
- Services that enhance the utility of equipment beyond the transport of information, or diagnostic services in excess of those necessary to maintain the equipment's ability to transport information
- Network management services, including 24-hour network monitoring
- On-site technical support (i.e., contractor duty station at the applicant site), unless applicants present sufficient evidence of cost-effectiveness
- Unbundled warranties

Managed Internal Broadband Services (MIBS)

- Services provided by third party for operation, management, and monitoring of eligible internal connections
- Services may include:
 - Management and operation of the LAN/WLAN
 - Installation, activation and initial configuration of eligible components
 - On-site training on use of equipment
- Equipment ownership options
 - 3rd party manager may own equipment that is leased to the school or library.
 - School or library may own the equipment and contract for management services.
- MIBS includes network monitoring by personnel, but Basic Maintenance does not include monitoring
- FCC Order also states that MIBS includes **maintenance** of eligible IC but this language is **not** included in the draft ESL for FY2026

FCC Asked for Comment on MIBS

- Should it continue to be available?
- Is it beneficial?
- Is it cost-effective?
- Should the definition be refined?

Category 2 Filing Tips

- When requesting bids on equipment:
 - Ask for bids for Right-to-Use Licenses
 - Ask for bids for BMIC
 - Ask for bids for MIBS
- In the narrative box, explain exactly what services/licenses you request bids on; for example --
 - Bids for right to use licenses (specify single or multi-year)
 - Bids for software updates, bug fixes, technical support licenses (specify single or multi-year)
 - Bids for third party to operate, monitor and configure eligible IC (specify what equipment – list existing equipment in addition to new equipment that you're bidding on 470 if applicable)
 - Bids for third party vendor to maintain equipment in proper working condition – either MIBS, BMIC or both

Reminders of Upcoming Dates

- 10/28/2025 – Recurring Service BEARs are due for FY 2024 FRNs
 - If you need an extension, log into EPC and request extension before current deadline. Extension is automatically approved if requested no later than the original invoice deadline
- 10/28/2025 – Deadline for filing FCC Form 486 to certify CIPA compliance and confirm services have started, for FRNs with approved FCDL dated on or before 7/1/2025

Upcoming Webinars

E-Rate Form 470 and Competitive Bidding

When: Wednesday, Oct. 22, 2025, 10:00 AM Central Time

Registration link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/d9l2PrkKRqGCAFvKx7kt0A>

E-Rate Bid Evaluation and Contracts

When: Wednesday, Nov 12, 2025, 10:00 AM Central Time

Registration Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/R_utklsXShmxMfS7H-Xk4g

E-Rate Office Hours

When: Wednesday, Dec 17, 2025, 10:00 AM Central Time

Registration Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/GPIWe5dDSt6Hw93vuA-zPQ>

E-Rate Form 471 Filing for Category 1

When: Wednesday, Jan 21, 2026, 10:00 AM Central Time (US and Canada)

Registration Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/ONrDLRiCSBei_wNTPuotw

E-Rate Form 471 Filing for Category 2

When: Wednesday, Jan 28, 2026, 10:00 AM Central Time (US and Canada)

Registration Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/aRwA_WDaTzCDfnL_Kg39Xw

Answering PIA Pre-Funding Review Questions

When: Feb. 11, 2026, 10:00 AM Central Time

Registration Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/j_naj35NR_G4XylMAR4F8g

E-Rate Office Hours

When: Feb. 18, 2026, 10:00 AM Central Time

Registration Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/E1blQYIURBiBSwVO6Q4p5A>

Other Resources

- Email me at dmkriete@comcast.net and we can set up a call or Zoom
- Fall 2025 Updated E-Rate Resource Manual online
 - <https://doe.sd.gov/ofm/sderate.aspx>
- Sign up for the state E-Rate listserv
 - https://www.k12.sd.us/MailingLists/SD_E-Rate
- Sign up for USAC News briefs
 - <https://fe391570756406797d1477.pub.s10.sfmc-content.com/3n2usens2cz>
- USAC educational materials
 - <https://www.usac.org/e-rate/learn/>