

# Learningtech.org

### How the New E-Rate Rules Affect My School!

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# E-Rate 2.0: Agenda

- Brief E-Rate Primer
- E-Rate Modernization Order content
  - Detail most important
  - Focus most timely
  - Skim nuances
- · Interpreting ramifications for various scenarios
  - Take away strategies
  - Know what to do this afternoon
  - Know what to tell your Board at next meeting
- "TMI" pauses for questions
- Dropbox link to handouts, templates, resources



## E-Rate 2.0: Quick Poll



Have you applied for E-Rate Discounts in the past?

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## E-Rate 2.0: Primer

### What is E-Rate?

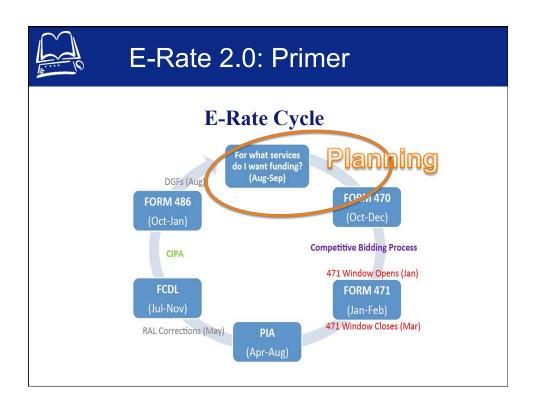


E-Rate is a Federal Communications Commission [FCC] discount program for technology for schools and libraries



#### Administered by

- Universal Service Administrative Company [USAC]
- Schools and Libraries Division [SLD]
- Discounts
  - On Eligible Services List [ESL]
  - From 20% 90% (85% for Category 2)
  - Based on NSLP FRL eligibility
- \$3.9 Billion/year (increased from \$2.4 Billion this year)
  - Annually since 1998
  - Indexed to inflation since 2010
- Filing Deadline EXTENDED to April 16, 2015, 9 PM PDT

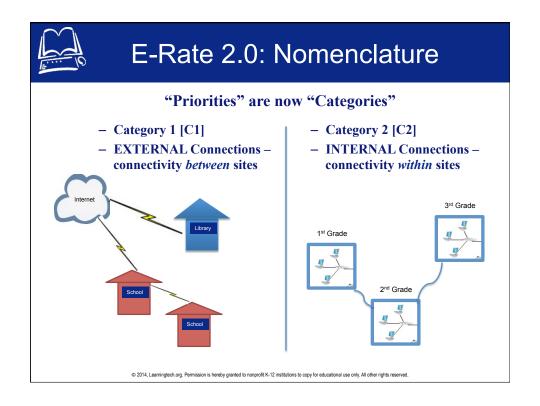




## E-Rate 2.0: Primer

### **E-Rate Modernization Order**

- FCC published its seventh Order & Report on July 23, 2014 http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs\_public/attachmatch/FCC-14-99A1.pdf
- Focuses on expanding and/or upgrading Wi-Fi networks with continued support for broadband connectivity
- USAC website has section devoted to Order <u>http://www.usac.org/sl/tools/modernization-order/default.aspx</u>
- All changes go into effect for Funding Year 2015 (July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016) unless otherwise noted
- Some details of implementation are still pending





## E-Rate 2.0: Tech Plans

- Technology Plans no longer required
  - 1998 2011 required for all applications
  - 2011 2014 required for Priority 2 applications
  - 2015 forward, not required

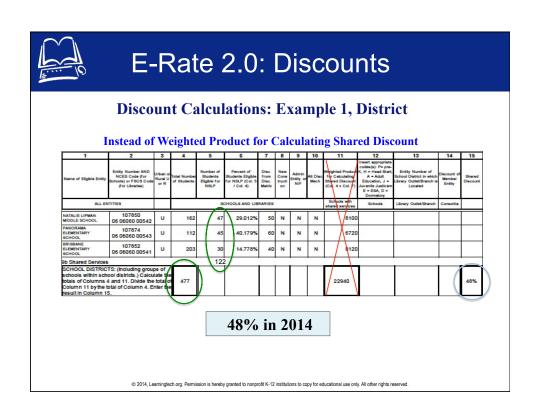


- Technology Plans still have value
  - Build stakeholder consensus
  - Guide budget compromises
  - Document status and progress
  - Strongly recommended by Learningtech.org
  - "Y18 Planning Document" standard for Learningtech.org clients



### "Simplified" Discount Calculations (for reference)

- Independent Schools/Charters: NSLP percentage based on own student population
- Districts: weighted average site discounts replaced by districtwide discount
- Libraries: use district-wide discount of district where main facility is located
- Consortia: continue to use simple average of all members' discounts, but must use each member's district-wide discount
- "Rural" aligned with U.S. Census Bureau and prevails if majority of entities are rural
- Schools utilizing Community Eligibility Provision [CEP] calculate student eligibility for FRL by multiplying percentage of directly certified students by CEP national multiplier





### **Discount Calculations: Example 1, District**

All NSLP Eligible Students Divided by All Enrolled Students Look up in E-Rate Discount Matrix yielding round discount amount

- [	E-Rate Discount Matrix							
-[	NSLP%	Urban	Rural					
	N3LF /0	Discount	Discount					
	<1%	20%	25%					
[	1% to 19%	40%	50%					
	20% to 34%	50%	60%					
Ī	35% to 49%	60%	70%					
[	50% to 74%	80%	80%					
_ [	75% to 100%	90%	90%					

50% in 2015

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## E-Rate 2.0: Discounts

### **Discount Calculations: Example 2, Charter**

	Y17 (2014 - 2015)					
Entity Name	Total Students	NSLP Eligible	NSLP %	Discount		
Charter School	350	330	94.29%	90.00%		

Y18 (2015 - 2016)					
Total	NSLP				
Students	Eligible				
350	330				
NSLP %	94%				

2014 90%

2015	90%
------	-----

E-Rate Discount Matrix						
NSLP%	<u>Urban</u>	Rural				
	Discount	Discount				
<1%	20%	25%				
1% to 19%	40%	50%				
20% to 34%	50%	60%				
35% to 49%	60%	70%				
50% to 74%	80%	80%				
75% to 100%	90%	90%				



### **Discount Calculations: Example 3, District**

	Y17 (2014 - 2015)				
Entity Name	Total Students	NSLP Eligible	NSLP %	Discount	Weighted Product
C Elementary School	748	408	54.55%	80.00%	59840
C Middle School	714	530	74.23%	80.00%	57120
D Middle School	689	297	43.11%	60.00%	41340
RH Middle School	989	178	18.00%	40.00%	39560
ML Elem School	591	49	8.29%	40.00%	23640
L Elementary School	586	354	60.41%	80.00%	46880
B Elementary School	577	429	74.35%	80.00%	46160
M Middle School	886	530	59.82%	80.00%	70880
FHI Elementary Sch	599	70	11.69%	40.00%	23960
SO Elementary School	515	390	75.73%	90.00%	46350
V School	264	9	3.41%	40.00%	10560
District Administrative Office	0	0	0.00%	20.00%	0
Bus Yard	0	0	0.00%	20.00%	0
R Elementary School	507	465	91.72%	90.00%	45630
	7665				511920

Y18 (2015 - 2016)					
Total Students					
748	408				
714	530				
689	297				
989	178				
591	49				
586	354				
577	429				
886	530				
599	70				
515	390				
264	9				
0	0				
0	0				
507	465				
7665	3709				
NSLP %	48%				

2014 67%

2015 60%

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## E-Rate 2.0: Discounts

#### **Discount Calculations: Consortia (for reference)**

- Consortia applications continue to use simple average of all members' discounts for overall consortium discount, but will now use each member's district-wide discount
- QUESTIONS:
  - Is a Charter Management Organization always a Consortium?
     ("average of entities" calculation)
  - Is a Charter Management Organization always a District?
     ("all eligible vs. enrolled" calculation)
  - What defines a CMO as a Consortium vs. a District?



- FCC and SLD Guidance on CMOs still unclear
  - Historically, CMOs filed as Consortiums
  - Until clear, calculate both methods and use best for you
  - Budget for possible reduction in Program Integrity Assurance [PIA]



### **Discount Calculations: Example 4, Consortium**

Average Entities (like 2014 Consortiums)

OR

All Students (like 2015 districts)

	Y17 (2014 - 2015)						
Entity Name	Total Students	NSLP Eligible	NSLP %	Discount			
PA School	50	34	68.00%	80.00%			
SJ School	58	28	48.28%	60.00%			
Admin Office	0	0		70.00%			

Y18 (2015 - 2016)					
Total	NSLP				
Students	Eligible				
50	34				
58	28				
0	0				
108	62				
NSLP %	57%				

2014 70%

2015 80%

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## E-Rate 2.0: Discounts

### **Discount Calculations: Example 5, CMO**

Fortile No.	Total	FRL	NCL DO/	E-Rate		Total	FRL
Entity Name	Students Eligible		NSLP%	Discount		Students	Eligible
GJAJ	580	197	34.0%	50%		580	197
INTERNATIONAL	402	161	40.0%	60%		402	161
MEDIA ARTS	402	169	42.0%	60%		402	169
NC HS	579	123	21.2%	50%		579	123
CV HS	608	313	51.5%	80%		608	313
CV MIDDLE	328	178	54.3%	80%		328	178
MIDDLE MEDIA ARTS	324	118	36.4%	60%		324	118
EX ELEMENTARY	356	101	28.4%	50%		356	101
NC MIDDLE	331	123	37.2%	60%		331	123
CV ELEMENTARY	420	234	55.7%	80%		420	234
HT MIDDLE	332	143	43.1%	60%		332	143
NC ELEMENTARY	267	126	47.2%	60%		267	126
CENTRAL SUPPORT OFFICE	0	0	62.5%	80%		0	0
					•	4929	1986
						NSLP %	40.3%

2014 64%

2015 60%



### **Discount Calculations: Examples Recapped**

	Entity	2014	2015	Difference
Example 1	District	48%	50%	+ 2%
Example 2	Charter	90%	90%	0%
Example 3	District	67%	60%	- 7%
Example 4	Consortium	70%	80%	+ 10%
Example 5	СМО	64%	60%	- 4%

No general rule for overall increase/decrease in discount Your unique situation determines your discount

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## E-Rate 2.0: Quick Poll



What was your 2014 E-Rate discount?



### **Discount Calculations – TEMPLATE**

**Available in Webinar Handouts** 

#### Tabs for:

- Consortia using "Average of entities"
- Schools, Charters, Districts using ALL eligible vs. enrolled calculation

Entity	Enrolled Students	NSLP Eligible	NSLP %		E-Rate Discount
Endity	Emoneu Students	NOLI LIIGIDIC	NSEI 76	(Urban)	(Rural)

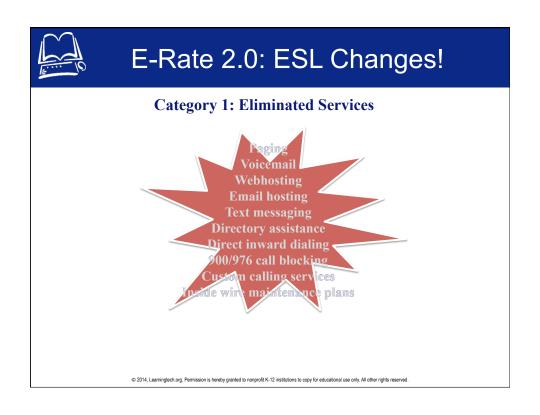
E-Rate Discount Matrix							
NSLP %	E-Rate Discount	E-Rate Discount					
	(Urban)	(Rural)					
Less than 1%	20%	25%					
1% to 19%	40%	50%					
20% to 34%	50%	60%					
35% to 49%	60%	70%					
50% to 74%	80%	80%					
75% to 100%	90%	90%					

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## E-Rate 2.0: Questions?







# E-Rate 2.0: ESL Changes!

Category 1: Phased Out Services 20% reduction each year, beginning FY2015

Local

Long distance

**POTS** 

Radio loop

800 service

Satellite phone

**Shared phone service** 

**Centrex** 

Wireless/cellular voice

**VoIP** 



## E-Rate 2.0: ESL Changes!

### **Category 2: Eligible**

#### **Eligible Broadband Internal Connections Components**

- Cabling, connectors, and related components
- Network switches
- Routers
- Access points
- Wireless LAN Controllers
- Caching
- Firewalls that protect eligible equipment from security hazards
- Racks that support eligible components
- Uninterruptible Power Supply [UPS]
- · Software to support eligible, including Client Access Licenses

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## E-Rate 2.0: ESL Changes!

#### **Category 2: INeligible**

Any Internal Connections equipment not *directly used* to push Wi-Fi into classrooms or library common rooms

### **Category 2: Still Eligible**

Basic Maintenance of Internal Connections (included in five-year budget)

#### Category 2: Newly Eligible

Wi-Fi as a managed service Caching functionality



# E-Rate 2.0: C1 Impact

Category 1: E-Rate Modernization Impact on C1
Eliminated & Phased Out Services – 2015, Example 1
Effective discount 2014 is 90%; effective discount 2015 is 58%

			FY2014		FY2015
<u>SERVICE</u>	Pre-Discount	Discount	<u>Funding</u>	Discount	<u>Funding</u>
ELIMINATED	\$517,611.60	90%	\$465,850.44	0%	\$-
PHASED OUT	\$2,566,383.68	90%	\$2,309,745.31	70%	\$1,796,468.58
TOTAL SERVICES	\$3,083,995.28	90%	\$2,775,595.75	58%	\$1,796,468.58

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# E-Rate 2.0: C1 Impact

Category 1: E-Rate Modernization Impact on C1 Eliminated & Phased Out Services – 2016 – 2019, Example 1 Discount 2019 is 0%; Telcom funding redirected to C2 services

		FY2016		FY2017		FY	/2018	FY2019	
SERVICE	Pre-Discount	Discount	Funding	Discount	Funding	Discount	Funding	Discount	Funding
ELIMINATED	\$517,611.60	0%	\$-	0%	\$-	0%	\$-	0%	\$-
PHASED OUT	\$2,566,383.68	50%	\$1,283,191.84	30%	\$769,915.10	10%	\$256,638.37	0%	\$-
TOTAL SERVICES	\$3,083,995.28	42%	\$1,283,191.84	25%	\$769,915.10	8%	\$256,638.37	0%	\$-



# E-Rate 2.0: C1 Impact

# Category 1: E-Rate Modernization Impact on C1 Eliminated & Phased Out Services, Example 2

Applicants with <90% phase out faster (-20% from where you started in 2014)

		FY2014	FY2014	FY2015	FY2015	FY2016	FY2016
SERVICE	PRE-DISCOUNT	Discount	Funding	Discount	Funding	Discount	Funding
Web hosting	\$3,850.00	40%	\$1,540.00	0%	\$-	0%	\$-
411 SERVICE	\$1,000.00	40%	\$400.00	0%	\$-	0%	\$-
BASIC LOCAL PHONE (POTS)	\$5,502.24	40%	\$2,200.90	20%	\$1,100.45	0%	\$-
LONG DISTANCE	\$3,300.00	40%	\$1,320.00	20%	\$660.00	0%	\$-
Wireless/ cellular voice	\$20,780.28	40%	\$8,312.11	20%	\$4,156.06	0%	\$-
DIGITAL PRI T-1	\$5,639.34	40%	\$2,255.74	20%	\$1,127.87	0%	\$-
VoIP	\$45,598.08	40%	\$18,239.23	20%	\$9,119.62	0%	\$-
TOTAL	\$85,669.94	40%	\$34,267.98	19%	\$16,163.99	0%	\$-

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# E-Rate 2.0: C1 Impact

# Category 1: E-Rate Modernization Impact on C1 Eliminated & Phased Out Services – TEMPLATE

Telecommunications Services	PRE-DISCOUNT	FY2014	FY2014	FY2015	FY2015	FY2016	FY2016	FY2017	FY2017	FY2018	FY2018	FY2019	FY2019
SERVICE	TOTAL	Discount	Funding										
ELIMINATED SERVICES													
Email hosting	\$-	90%	\$-	0%	\$-	0%	Ş-	0%	\$-	0%	\$-	0%	\$
Web hosting	\$-	90%	\$-	0%	\$-	0%	Ş-	0%	\$-	0%	\$-	0%	\$-
Paging	\$-	90%	\$-	0%	\$-	0%	Ş-	0%	\$-	0%	\$-	0%	\$-
Voicemail	\$-	90%	\$-	0%	\$-	0%	Ş-	0%	\$-	0%	\$-	0%	\$-
411 SERVICE	\$-	90%	\$-	0%	\$-	0%	Ş-	0%	\$-	0%	\$-	0%	\$
Text messaging	\$-	90%	\$-	0%	\$-	0%	Ş-	0%	\$-	0%	\$-	0%	\$
Custom calling services	\$-	90%	\$-	0%	\$-	0%	Ş-	0%	\$-	0%	\$-	0%	\$
DID SERVICES (BLKS OF 40)	\$-	90%	\$-	0%	\$-	0%	Ş-	0%	\$-	0%	\$-	0%	\$
900/976 call blocking	\$-	90%	\$-	0%	\$-	0%	Ş-	0%	\$-	0%	\$-	0%	\$
INSIDE WIRE MAINTENANCE	\$-	90%	\$-	0%	\$-	0%	Ş-	0%	\$-	0%	\$-	0%	\$
PHASED OUT SERVICES													
BASIC LOCAL PHONE (POTS)	\$-	90%	\$-	70%	\$-	50%	Ş-	30%	\$-	10%	\$-	0%	\$-
LONG DISTANCE	\$-	90%	\$-	70%	\$-	50%	Ş-	30%	\$-	10%	\$-	0%	\$
Radio Loop	\$-	90%	\$-	70%	\$-	50%	Ş-	30%	\$-	10%	\$-	0%	\$
800 service	\$-	90%	\$-	70%	\$-	50%	Ş-	30%	\$-	10%	\$-	0%	\$
Shared phone service	\$-	90%	\$-	70%	\$-	50%	Ş-	30%	\$-	10%	\$-	0%	\$
Centrex	\$-	90%	\$-	70%	\$-	50%	Ş-	30%	\$-	10%	\$-	0%	\$
Wireless/cellular voice	\$-	90%	\$-	70%	\$-	50%	Ş-	30%	\$-	10%	\$-	0%	\$
DIGITAL PRI T-1	\$-	90%	\$-	70%	\$-	50%	Ş-	30%	\$-	10%	\$-	0%	\$
SIP TRUNK LINES	\$-	90%	\$-	70%	\$-	50%	Ş-	30%	\$-	10%	\$-	0%	\$
VoIP	\$-	90%	\$-	70%	\$-	50%	Ş-	30%	\$-	10%	\$-	0%	\$
	Š-	#DIV/0!	Ś-	#DIV/0!	\$-	#DIV/0!	Š-	#DIV/0!	Ś-	#DIV/0!	Ŝ-	#DIV/0!	\$



## E-Rate 2.0: Category 2

- Maximum discount level for C2 | 85%
- Five-Year Budgets:
  - Schools: \$150.00 per student pre-discount
  - Libraries: \$2.30 per square foot pre-discount
  - Per entity: each school/library gets own budget
  - The pre-discount cost of C2 application at least \$9,200.00
  - Includes Basic Maintenance of Internal Connections

\$150/student or \$2.30/foot (max)





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## E-Rate 2.0: Category 2

### C2 5-Year Budget

- Replaces "2-in-5" rule
- Spend as best fits your Technology Plan
  - Projects totaling \$30.00 per student per year for 5 years
  - Projects totaling \$150.00 per student once every five years
  - A few entities in 2015 and a few entities in 2016
  - Consider facility openings and closings
  - PER ENTITY budget; not pooled for whole district

Entity	Qty	Factor	Pre-Discount
Small School/District/CMO	60	\$150/student	\$9,200.00
Medium School/District/CMO	25,000	\$150/student	\$3,750,000.00
Large School/District/CMO	100,000	\$150/student	\$15,000,000.00
Small Library	2000	\$2.30/sq ft	\$9,200.00
Medium Library	15,000	\$2.30/sq ft	\$34,500.00
Large Library	50,000	\$2.30/sq ft	\$115,000.00



## E-Rate 2.0: Category 2

### **More Category 2 Funding**

- Program's annual budget raised from \$2.4 Billion to \$3.9 Billion
- \$1 billion per year earmarked for Category 2 in each of next two funding years (FY2015 and FY2016)



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# E-Rate 2.0: C2 More Likely

### **Historically, Priority 2**

- Average threshold = 74%
- Average 2014 P2 application requested \$260K
- 2012 P2 commitments averaged \$1,750 per student
- Estimated half of applications NOT FUNDED due to funding cap

FDCL Explanation:
"Given Program demand, the
funding cap will not
provide for Internal
Connections or Basic
Maintenance of Internal
Connections at your
approved discount level to
be funded."

FY	Funding Reached	Threshold Comments
2014	100%	NO discount levels funded
2013	100%	NO discount levels funded
2012	90%	
2011	88%	
2010	0%	All discount levels funded
2009	77%	Including \$900M roll-over
2008	87%	Including \$600M roll-over
2007	81%	Including \$650M roll-over
2006	86%	
2005	80%	
2004	81%	Including \$150M roll-over
2003	70%	Including \$420M roll-over
2002	81%	
2001	86%	
2000	82%	
1999	0%	All discount levels funded
1998	70%	



# E-Rate 2.0: C2 More Likely

### C2 funding more likely for more Applicants

- Greater OPPORTUNITY for lower discount Applicants
- Especially in FY2015 & FY2016

<b>E-Rate 1.0</b>	<b>E-Rate 2.0</b>
Higher discount Applicants fund 1st	Higher discount Applicants fund 1st
Only full discount bands funded	Funding within discount bands based on NSLP%
2-in-5 Rule only limit on P2 application request	5-year C2 Budgets MAX (\$150/student, \$2.30/foot)
Lower discount Applicants NOT FUNDED due to funding cap	\$1 B dedicated C2 funding in FY2015 and FY2016
Lower discount Applicants did not bother to apply	Funding redirected to support more C2 FUNDED applications

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## E-Rate 2.0: Questions?





## E-Rate 2.0: Form 470

- Form 470, Description of Services Needed
  - **New form for 2015**
  - Initiates competitive bidding process
  - Must be filed electronically
  - Can still certify via paper if no PIN





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## E-Rate 2.0: Form 471

- Form 471, Description of Services Ordered
  - New form for 2015
  - Main Application Form
  - Must be filed electronically
  - Requires LOTS more detail than in past
- For multiyear contracts up to 5 years
  - Simplified application for years 2-5
  - Details pending







## E-Rate 2.0: Form 471

- No contract required before filing Form 471
  - Just a "legally binding agreement"
    - Bid with full terms and conditions
    - + email or letter accepting bid



- Item 21
  - Detailed description of products and services
  - Standardized; part of 471 now instead of separate
  - Template available for download
  - Data publicly available

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## E-Rate 2.0: Other Changes

#### **Other Process Changes (for reference)**

- All FORMS must be filed electronically
- USAC to:
  - Make data publicly available and searchable
  - Vigorously enforce Lowest Corresponding Price rule: Vendors must offer Applicants the lowest price commercially available to comparable entities
  - Speed application review
  - Prioritize consortium applications
- C2 projects may be started in APRIL preceding funding year
- FY2016, BEAR reimbursements go *directly to Applicants* (instead of via vendors)
- Longer Document Retention



## E-Rate 2.0: Other Changes

Document retention 5 -> 10 years Electronic OK





(Learningtech.org clients: ask for link to your Dropbox repository)

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## E-Rate 2.0: Take Aways

- \$0.00 funding for Eliminated Services 2015+
- 20% less funding for Phased Out Services per year for 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, <u>\$0\$ for 2019+</u>
- ALL applicants have C2 5-year budget per entity
- \$ 1B funding for C2 in 2015 & 2016
- > probability of C2 funding in 2015 AND 2016
- Going forward, E-Rate program is all about
- high speed wireless Internet access



## E-Rate 2.0: Quick Poll



Do you know exactly what to do NOW to facilitate your FY2015 application?

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## E-Rate 2.0: Next Steps

- 1) Calculate your 2015 E-Rate discount
  - Use Learningtech.org template to calculate discount
- 2) Determine your level of C1 exposure
  - How much funding will you lose for C1 services in 2015? 2016?
    - Review FY2014 E-Rate application
    - Use Learningtech.org template to calculate reductions
- 3) Develop plan to cover shortfall and/or migrate services
  - Budget for 2015 forward for 100% share
  - Find cheaper options, such as VoIP (also phasing out) or explore virtual PBX solutions
  - Do without now or develop "sunsetting" schedule



## E-Rate 2.0: Next Steps

#### 4) Identify your contract liabilities

- Locate all existing, multi-year contracts for services that will be phased out and/or eliminated
- Conduct thorough review of contract terms and conditions
- Determine "severability"
  - Confirm "turn-up" date and contract expiration date with vendor (verifying vendor's records correspond to your records)
  - Find any contingency clauses (e.g., "contract is contingent upon favorable Funding Commitment Decision Letter [FCDL]...") to allow for cancellation and/or reduction of E-Rate funded services

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## E-Rate 2.0: Next Steps

#### 5) Calculate your C2 5-year budget

### 6) Ascertain need for WiFi upgrade projects

- Survey sites, documenting current capacity vs. future requirements
- Remember that FY2015 and FY2016 have more funding guaranteed

#### 7) Prepare Board meeting E-Rate Update

- Presentation well ahead of FY2015 filing window to allow time for discussion and long-term planning
- Use Learningtech.org template to craft your message
- DRAFT 2015-2016 Budget



# E-Rate 2.0: Next Steps

### 8) Attend to unfolding Modernization details

- Watch the listservs
- Join the webinars
- Read SL News Briefs weekly (every Friday)

All time spent planning now will pay dividends for the next several years

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## E-Rate 2.0: Questions?

