HPE aruba
networking

Your E-rate questions answered

HPE
GreenLake

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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 20–90% 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?

Funding Year 2025 is the last year of this Category Two budget funding cycle. Any C2 budget remaining, does not roll-over to the next funding cycle beginning in 2026. So, this year is truly a "use it or lose it" funding year.

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.
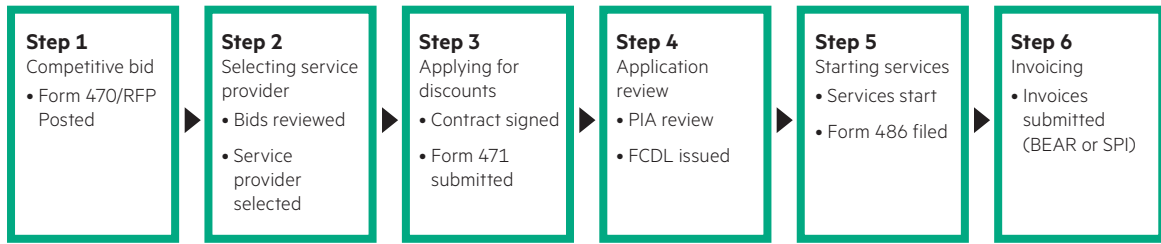
| Step 1
Competitive bid
• Form 470/RFP Posted | Step 2
Selecting service provider
• Bids reviewed
• Service provider selected | Step 3
Applying for discounts
• Contract signed
• Form 471 submitted | Step 4
Application review
• PIA review
• FCDL issued | Step 5
Starting services
• Services start
• Form 486 filed | Step 6
Invoicing
• Invoices submitted (BEAR or SPI) |

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

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 usac.org/e-rate/get-started for more information. You can also email HPE Aruba Networking's team of E-rate experts at erate@hpe.com.

Why should I choose HPE Aruba Networking solutions for my school?

HPE Aruba Networking solutions deliver education anywhere, enhance collaborative learning environments, and support student staff, and faculty safety initiatives. The HPE Aruba Networking edge-to-cloud platform, which provides connectivity, WAN, security, and management solutions, gives IT the ability to be agile and to scale with speed, keeping up with a very mobile and device-demanding campus.

How do I determine if HPE Aruba Networking products are e-rate eligible?

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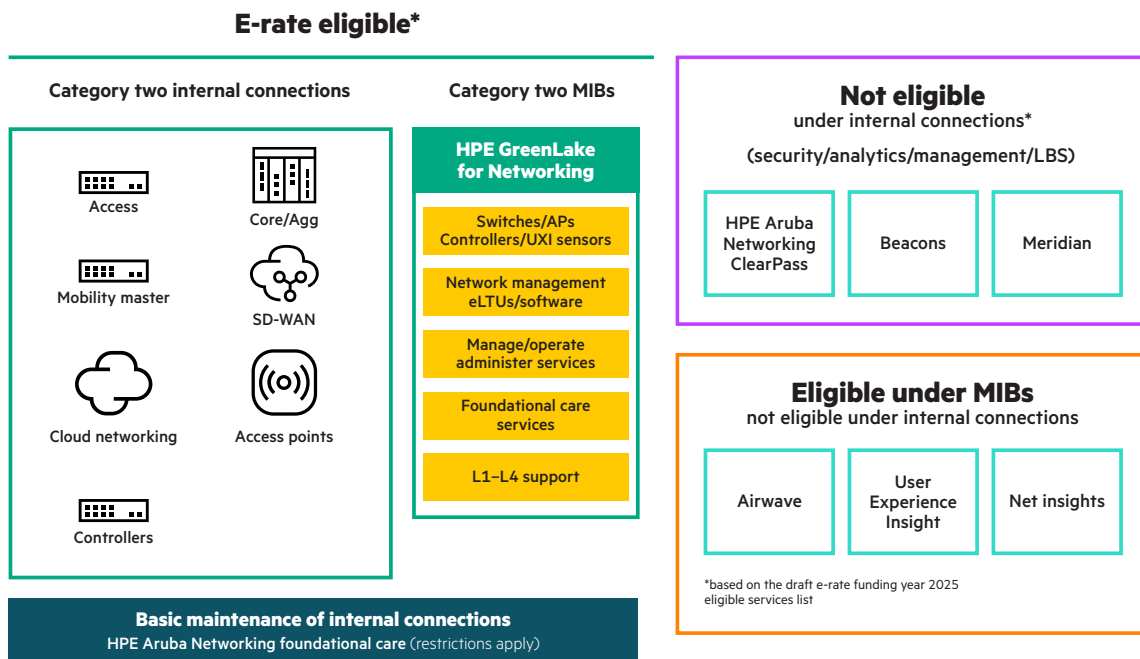
E-rate eligible*

Category two internal connections

- Access
- Core/Agg
- Mobility master
- SD-WAN
- Cloud networking
- Access points
- Controllers

Basic maintenance of internal connections
HPE Aruba Networking foundational care (restrictions apply)

Category two MIBs

HPE GreenLake for Networking
- Switches/APs Controllers/UXI sensors
- Network management eLTUs/software
- Manage/operate administer services
- Foundational care services
- L1–L4 support

Not eligible
under internal connections*
(security/analytics/management/LBS)
- HPE Aruba Networking ClearPass
- Beacons
- Meridian

Eligible under MIBs
not eligible under internal connections
- Airwave
- User Experience Insight
- Net insights

*based on the draft e-rate funding year 2025 eligible services list

Figure 2. HPE Aruba Networking E-rate eligibility tool

What if I have additional questions about HPE Aruba Networking's e-rate offering?

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

Visit **HPE.com**

Chat now (sales)

Hewlett Packard Enterprise