FCC Opens Second E-Rate Application Window for Funding Year 2020

Recognizing schools’ additional on-campus bandwidth needs due to COVID-19, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has opened a second E-Rate Program funding window to allow schools to request additional funding to address increased on-campus bandwidth needs. The second filing window closes on Friday, October 16, 2020.

According to the FCC, this additional E-Rate funding opportunity is intended to address increased on-campus bandwidth requirements resulting from the increasing shift to 1:1 student-to-device ratios in classrooms, live streaming of classroom instruction to students at home, and expanding use of cloud-based educational tools and platforms. Refer to the FCC announcement for more details.

Statewide Contracts Streamline the E-Rate Program Process

Steps to initiate the E-Rate application process include posting FCC Form 470 and completing your Competitive Bidding process. These requirements are streamlined for buyers electing to use Statewide Contracts as FCC Form 470 has been filed by the Massachusetts Operational Services Division (OSD) for the Statewide Contracts (SWC) listed below, and these contracts provide a selection of awarded vendors for buyer consideration.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SWC</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>E-Rate Category</th>
<th>Form 470 Number</th>
<th>Initial Funding Year*</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ITC47</td>
<td>IT Hardware and Services: Data Network and Wi-Fi Equipment</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>796830000864917</td>
<td>7/1/2011 – 6/30/2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>ITT46</td>
<td>Network Services: Voice, Internet, Cellular, and Managed Services</td>
<td>1 &amp; 110350000864310</td>
<td>7/1/2011 – 6/30/2012</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>ITT50</td>
<td>Converged Voice and Data Communications Systems (VoIP)</td>
<td>1 &amp; 2 949890001132736</td>
<td>7/1/2013 – 6/30/2014</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>ITT72</td>
<td>Network Services, Communications Services &amp; Related Equipment</td>
<td>1 &amp; 2 20001885</td>
<td>7/1/2020 – 6/30/2021</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*This information is needed when buyers file FCC Form 471 (Description of Services Ordered and Certification Form). Note that the Initial Funding Year identifies the academic year when the Form 470 was filed by OSD.

Note that ITC47, ITT46, and ITT50, originally expiring on June 30, 2020, have been extended through June 30, 2021, and buyers may continue to use these contracts for their E-Rate and day-to-day purchasing requirements.
Telecommunications Discounts through the E-Rate Program
Participate with Statewide Contracts

Locate Statewide Contract Information and E-Rate Documents in COMMBUY

Buyers may find SWC information and E-Rate documents in COMMBUY, the state’s online procurement system:

- Go to COMMBUY.com;
- Click on Contract & Bid Search;
- Select the Contracts/Blankets radio button;
- Enter the SWC number (ex. “ITC47”) in the Contract/Blanket Description field;
- Select Statewide Contract from the Type Code drop-down menu;
- Click Find It.

Your search will return a list of vendors associated with the contract. Select the Conversion Vendor to locate the Form 470 document that includes the Service Provider Identification Number (SPIN) assigned to each vendor. You will need to provide the SPIN number associated with your selected vendor when filing FCC Form 471. Buyers are advised to confirm the SPIN number with the associated vendor.

E-Rate Application Process at a Glance

FCC Form 470
Description of Services Requested and Certification Form
A Form 470 has been filed for the E-rate-eligible SWCs listed on p. 1 and buyers will need to reference the SWC Form 470 number when filing FCC Form 471.

FCC Form 471
Services Ordered and Certification Form
This Form must be filed by the buyer. On FCC Form 471, buyers are cautioned to provide the Contact Information for their organization, not OSD.

FCC Form 486
Receipt of Service Confirmation Form
This Form must be filed by the buyer.

Additional Resources

Visit the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) website, the entity designated by the FCC to oversee E-Rate services.

Reach E-Rate State Coordinators:

- **Schools** - Kevin Kaczynski
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- **Libraries** - Paul Kissman
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