

E-RATE eNEWS

August 2026



As you probably know by now, the FCC has launched a wide-ranging review of the E-Rate Program that could have a significant impact on schools and libraries nationwide. Among the questions raised in the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) are whether E-Rate should be **limited, fundamentally changed, or even sunset altogether**, as well as whether support should be restricted to certain applicants, such as those in rural areas.

For nearly 30 years, E-Rate has helped schools and libraries afford the broadband connections and internal networks that have become essential to education and daily operations. The FCC is now seeking public input on the Program's future, making this an important opportunity for E-Rate participants to explain how the funding impacts their students, patrons, budgets, and communities.

We strongly encourage you to make your voices heard! The Schools, Health & Libraries Broadband (SHLB) Coalition has created a Save Our E-Rate Resource Center with information about the proceeding, sample comments, templates, and step-by-step instructions for submitting comments to the FCC. Visit www.shlb.org/save-our-e-rate to learn more and take action.

Comments are due to the FCC by October 13, 2026. We strongly encourage schools and libraries to take advantage of this opportunity to tell the FCC what E-Rate means to their organizations and communities!



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