



Decatur ISD

E-Rate

2024-2025

DECATUR ISD 10-21-2024

What is E-Rate

E-Rate at its core is a government subsidy that provides discounts to schools and libraries across the nation to help support “Telecommunication Services, internet access, and internal connections”

E-Rate / USAC



Implemented in 1997 by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC)

USAC - *Universal Service Administrative Company*

Services were updated in 2014 to focus on expanding Wi-Fi, but removed telephone services

Discounts and Percentages

Discount range from 20% – 90% of the cost eligible services. Decatur ISD is 70% (based on Formula)

Discounts are based on

- Percentage of students eligible for the national school lunch program (NSLP)
- Not a direct correlation

e.g.-75% FRLP = 90% discount

Funding year and Available Funding

Starts July 1st

Ends June 30th

E-Rate Program is capped at \$4.15 Billion per year and is adjusted for inflation

Since 2013 the demand has never reached the capped level.

What does E-Rate currently fund?

Category 1: Funded first, no budget limitations

- Internet Access
- Leased lit fiber, Dark fiber, Self-Provisioned fiber
- Equipment necessary to connect fiber

Category 2: Funding starts with neediest applicants & bound by budget (5 Year cycle)

- Internal connections
- Maintenance of internal connections
- Managed internal broadband services

Category 2

What are internal connections?

- Routers
- Switches
- Wireless access points
- Racks
- Wireless controller systems
- Firewall services
- Uninterruptable power supply equipment
- Software that supports eligible equipment
- Hardware, wiring, and cable maintenance

What has Decatur ISD purchased

2023:

Firewall, Access Points, installation and licenses

\$234,855.57

2024:

Switch, Access Points, installation and licenses

\$402,665.47

Total spending: \$637,521.04

Total Available from USAC: \$640,111.00

Where do we go from here?

Next E-Rate category 2 cycle begins 2026-2027

Bidding will begin in fall 2025!

Questions?