2023-2024

ERA ISD

GROWING OUR
CORE VALUES

E-Rate
Nortex and Era ISD

Category 1 and 2 Services

The Universal Service Administrative Co. (USAC) Schools and Libraries (E-Rate) program provides funding towards eligible services for schools and libraries to obtain affordable telecommunications and internet access. Internet access and many commercially available telecommunications services are eligible for discounts, as well as equipment that allows access to these services, and are divided into two categories.

Category One: Services that support connectivity to schools and libraries. For example, data transmission and Internet access service, including special construction services for network builds.

Category Two: Services that support connectivity within schools and libraries. This includes internal connections (e.g., routers, cabling, or other equipment needed for a Wi-Fi network); managed internal broadband services (MIBS), and basic maintenance of internal connections (BMIC).

Era ISD has contracted with the Education Service Center Region 12 to complete the required forms and meet E-Rate program requirements on behalf of the district.

- The fee for Category One Support, including filing applications and support for all USAC reviews and audits, is $1,500.
- The fee for Category Two, including filing applications and support for all USAC reviews and audits, is $1,000 plus 2.25% of the funded amount.

Because of Era ISD's status as "rural" by the Census Bureau and the percentage of students eligible for the National School Lunch Program, the current discount rate is 60% on services and projects.

USAC updates funding allowances and discounts every two years.

- USAC has funded Era ISD with $79,993 to be spent on Category Two projects by the end of FY 2023 (June 2024) at a 60% discount rate.
- USAC will fund Era ISD with $85,003 to be spent on Category Two projects by the end of FY 2025 (June 2026) at a 70% discount rate.

There are several areas of campus that are lacking in reliable internet access. Most notably, these are the Bob Grundy Football Stadium and Old Gym. Given the reliance on technology for instruction and district operations, faster internet speeds would be a huge benefit across campus.

Era ISD has contracted with Nortex Communications for internet services as an eligible service under Category One of the E-Rate program. In past years, this has resulted in a discount of $400 per month.

This will be effective for FY 2024-2025.

Nortex Communications has completed a comprehensive audit of our current internet network and provided a quote for improvements and upgrades that would result in faster internet speeds and more reliable connectivity.

The total cost of the project is $84,850.

The USAC process is as follows:
1. Competitive Bidding
   a. Bid must be published for 28 days.
2. Selecting a Service Provider
3. Applying for Discounts
4. Application Review
5. Starting Services
6. Pay for discounted services or pay for services and invoice USAC for reimbursement

Approve funding amount and instruct Region 12 to proceed with issuing the Invitation to Bid.

Description	Amount
Category 2 Project	$ 84,850.00
70% Discount Rate	- $ 59,395.00
Region 12 Fees	$ 2,909.13
Total Amount to Budget	**$ 28,364.13**