Classroom Connectivity Initiative

DON’T LET YOUR TEXAS STATE MATCH APPLICATION BE DENIED!

Classroom Connectivity: What is E-rate and State Matching?

➢Texas State Match Fund

- **Texas State Match Fund** authorized by the 85th Texas State Legislature in June 2017
  - funds **EXPIRE** August 31, 2019

- Provides $25 million for approved Category 1 special construction costs
  - **Texas State Match funds reduce the local funding share for Category 1 special construction projects** by providing a dollar-for-dollar match. Therefore, if Texas provides $25,000,000, the federal government will provide $25,000,000.
  - Districts with an E-rate discount of 80% to 90% can have their Category 1 special construction project **fully funded.**
  - Districts with an E-rate discount rate less that 80% can receive an **additional 20%** of their project costs.

- Available for the E-rate Funding Year 17 and **Funding Year 18 cycles** only

Texas State Match Fund Application Process

- **Most up-to-date process flow and forms are available on the TEA website**
  - **https://tea.texas.gov/Academics/Learning_Support_and_Programs/Technology_Planning/Classroom_Connectivity/Texas_State_Match_Fund/**
- **Process updated December 2017**
  - State cannot release payment until USAC disburses payment
  - Dollar-for-Dollar match to the federal match amount
    - If USAC denies or reduces your request, the state match is also denied or reduced
- **Important Dates**
  - ✓ Feb 22, 2018 - Technically, the last day to file a Form 470 for use with a Form 471
  - ✓ March 22, 2018 - FY 2018 Form 471 Application Window closes at 11:59 p.m. EDT.
  - ✓ August 31, 2019 – Last day for TEA to make state match payments

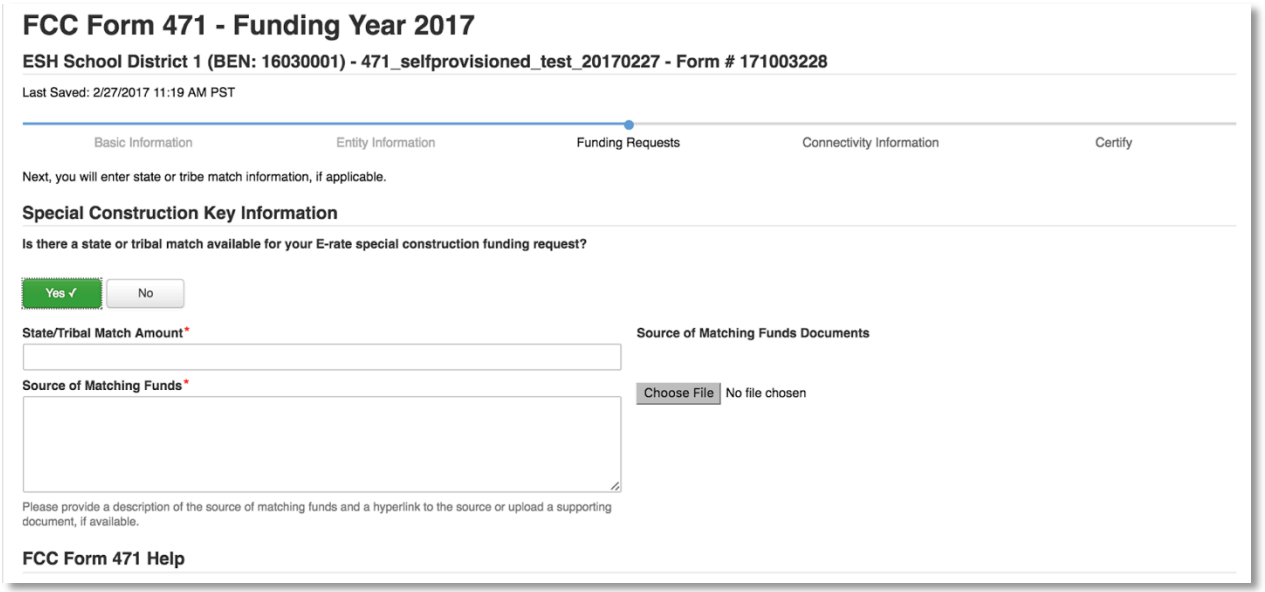
Internet Connection Must Meets Requirements

- Be sure that your RFP requests Internet access capable of meeting the FCC short-term goal of 100 Mbps per 1,000 students and staff (100 kbps per user)
- Be sure your RFP requests Internet access that is capable of scaling to the FCC long-term goal of 1Gbps per 1,000 students and staff (1 Mbps per user)
- Requests for WAN connections should meet 10Mbps per student/staff
- Connections do not need to meet the long-term speed on day one, but must be able to upgrade to those speeds during the life of the contract

Indicate that you plan to use state match on your Form 471

➢ BE SURE TO CHECK THE BOX!!

- Indicate in your FRN that there are special construction costs
- Check "**Yes**" when prompted "Is there a state or tribal match available for your E-rate special construction funding request?"
- Specify the **dollar amount** of the state matching funds requested
- When prompted to upload supporting documentation, link to USAC's state match website: http://www.usac.org/sl/applicants/beforeyoubegin/state-matching-provision.aspx

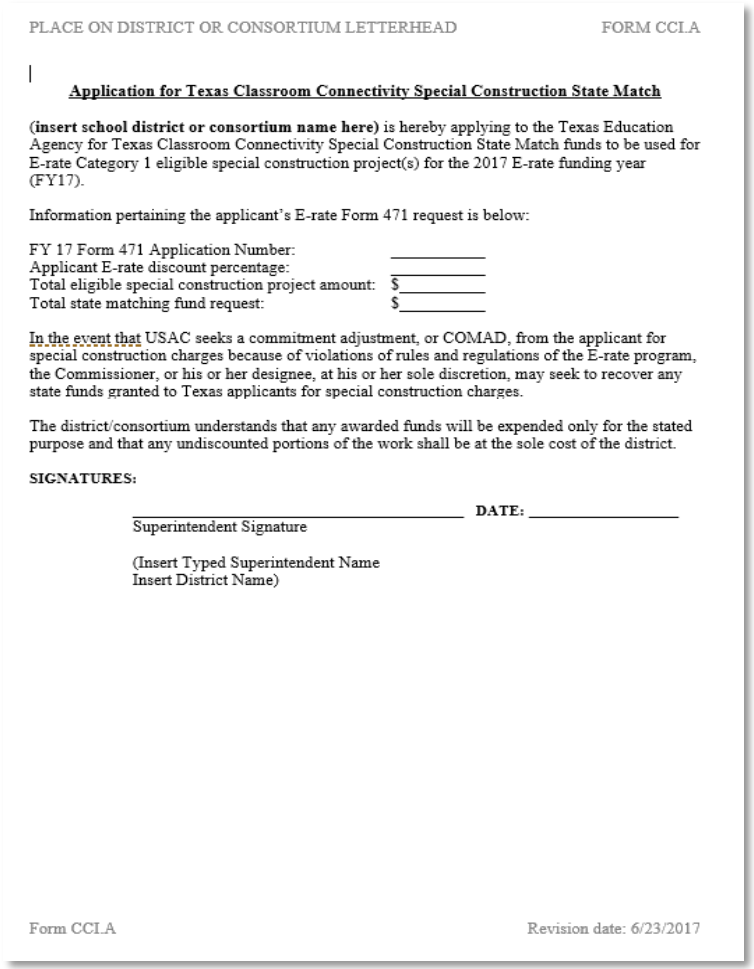


PIA Review Process

- **BE ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN THE PIA REVIEW**
  - TEA has sent out several correspondence to districts and ESCs concerning the state match percentage
  - Ineligible charges may reduce your state match percentage
  - Timely response to PIA questions is imperative; if the response time expires, then PIA will assume their comments are correct

Requesting Texas State Match funds from TEA: Sample Application for Category 1 Fiber Form CCI.A

- Submit to TEA after Form 471 filing period ends and prior to receiving FCDL
- Information should match information on your Form 471
- TEA sends TEA Award Letter to applicant
- Applicant sends TEA Award Letter to USAC by amending their 471, and/or providing to PIA
- PIA reviews for FY2018 have already begun. If you are contacted by PIA prior to March 22, contact TEA immediately



PLACE ON DISTRICT OR CONSORTIUM LETTERHEAD FORM CCI.A

Application for Texas Classroom Connectivity Special Construction State Match

(insert school district or consortium name here) is hereby applying to the Texas Education Agency for Texas Classroom Connectivity Special Construction State Match funds to be used for E-rate Category 1 eligible special construction project(s) for the 2017 E-rate funding year (FY17).

Information pertaining the applicant's E-rate Form 471 request is below:

FY 17 Form 471 Application Number: _____
Applicant E-rate discount percentage: _____
Total eligible special construction project amount: $_____
Total state matching fund request: $_____

In the event that USAC seeks a commitment adjustment, or COMAD, from the applicant for special construction charges because of violations of rules and regulations of the E-rate program, the Commissioner, or his or her designee, at his or her sole discretion, may seek to recover any state funds granted to Texas applicants for special construction charges.

The district/consortium understands that any awarded funds will be expended only for the stated purpose and that any undiscounted portions of the work shall be at the sole cost of the district.

SIGNATURES:

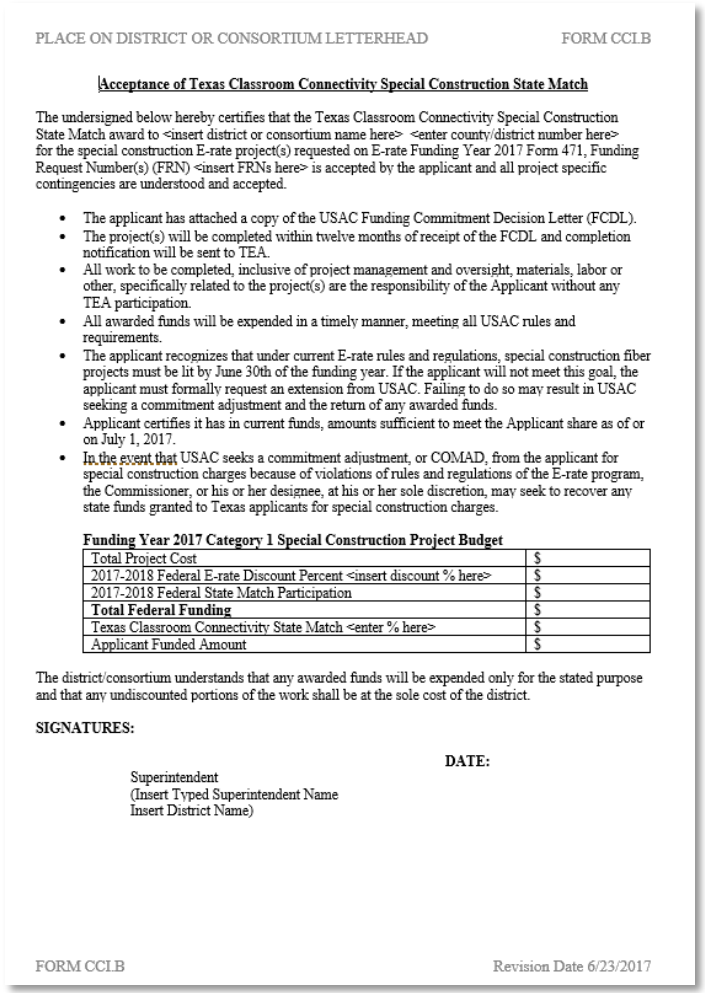
_____ **DATE:** _____
Superintendent Signature

(Insert Typed Superintendent Name
Insert District Name)

Form CCI.A Revision date: 6/23/2017

Requesting Texas State Match funds from TEA: Sample Acceptance of Award Form CCI.B Form

- Submit to TEA after receiving FCDL
- Information should match what's on your FCDL
- TEA will review and once approved, will sent a notification to the Superintendent.
- Funds will be disbursed to the LEA after USAC disperses funds for a submitted invoice. LEA is responsible for paying the provider
- REMEMBER ALL PROJECTS MUST COMPLETE AND INVOICE USAC IN TIME FOR TEA TO SEND PAYMENT PRIOR TO AUGUST 31, 2019



PLACE ON DISTRICT OR CONSORTIUM LETTERHEAD FORM CCI.B

Acceptance of Texas Classroom Connectivity Special Construction State Match

The undersigned below hereby certifies that the Texas Classroom Connectivity Special Construction State Match award to <insert district or consortium name here> <enter county/district number here> for the special construction E-rate project(s) requested on E-rate Funding Year 2017 Form 471, Funding Request Number(s) (FRN) <insert FRNs here> is accepted by the applicant and all project specific contingencies are understood and accepted.

- The applicant has attached a copy of the USAC Funding Commitment Decision Letter (FCDL).
- The project(s) will be completed within twelve months of receipt of the FCDL and completion notification will be sent to TEA.
- All work to be completed, inclusive of project management and oversight, materials, labor or other, specifically related to the project(s) are the responsibility of the Applicant without any TEA participation.
- All awarded funds will be expended in a timely manner, meeting all USAC rules and requirements.
- The applicant recognizes that under current E-rate rules and regulations, special construction fiber projects must be lit by June 30th of the funding year. If the applicant will not meet this goal, the applicant must formally request an extension from USAC. Failing to do so may result in USAC seeking a commitment adjustment and the return of any awarded funds.
- Applicant certifies it has in current funds, amounts sufficient to meet the Applicant share as of or on July 1, 2017.
- In the event that USAC seeks a commitment adjustment, or COMAD, from the applicant for special construction charges because of violations of rules and regulations of the E-rate program, the Commissioner, or his or her designee, at his or her sole discretion, may seek to recover any state funds granted to Texas applicants for special construction charges.

Funding Year 2017 Category 1 Special Construction Project Budget

Total Project Cost	$
2017-2018 Federal E-rate Discount Percent <insert discount % here>	$
2017-2018 Federal State Match Participation	$
Total Federal Funding	$
Texas Classroom Connectivity State Match <enter % here>	$
Applicant Funded Amount	$

The district/consortium understands that any awarded funds will be expended only for the stated purpose and that any undiscounted portions of the work shall be at the sole cost of the district.

SIGNATURES:

DATE:

Superintendent
(Insert Typed Superintendent Name
Insert District Name)

FORM CCI.B Revision Date 6/23/2017

Category Two Funding

- FCC allocated $150 per student of funding for Category 2 internal connection upgrades
  - Guaranteed for next two funding years, FY2018 and FY2019
  - Data indicates that over 170 Texas districts may have 100% of their Category 2 budget remaining
  - EducationSuperHighway has Category 2 on-demand webinars and Form 470 language and templates available

Hurricane Related Information

Schools directly impacted by Hurricane Harvey located within the FEMA designated counties

- **Hurricane Impact Designation**
  - Must complete the Designation in EPC.
  - Use the USAC link in the quick links section on the top of the schools and library landing page in EPC
  - Very important for those applicants who are applying for Category 2 funding in FY2018 or FY2019
  - Instructions are in the USAC January 12 News Brief and in the email sent out by TEA on Jan 30, 2018 with subject “Category Two Budget Reset”

Hurricane Related Information

- **Directly Impacted Schools**
  - May still file for Hurricane relief
    - TEA sent a list of districts to USAC on Feb 1st who were not able to file within the special hurricane filing widow
    - This **does not** secure any funding from E-rate or the state
    - Impacted districts will need to file Form 470/471 to secure E-rate funding
  - Keep Hurricane requests separate from other requests
  - Label Hurricane requests with H2018 in nickname when filing FY18 forms
  - Can have their Category Two five-year budget cycle reset

Resources:

- Texas Classroom Connectivity team: classroomconnectivity@tea.texas.gov
- TEA website on Classroom Connectivity: https://tea.texas.gov/classroom_connectivity
- TEA website on State Match: https://tea.texas.gov/Academics/Learning_Support_and_Programs/Technology_Planning/Classroom_Connectivity/Texas_State_Match_Fund/
- TEA website on E-rate Hurricane Information: https://tea.texas.gov/Academics/Learning_Support_and_Programs/Technology_Planning/E-rate/E-rate_Important_Hurricane_Information_and_Deadlines/
- EducationSuperHighway: www.educationsuperhighway.org
- EducationSuperHighway Resource page: https://www.educationsuperhighway.org/resources/
- USAC January 12 News Brief: http://www.usac.org/sl/tools/news-briefs/preview.aspx?id=811
- **IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT THE TEA CLASSROOM CONNECTIVITY TEAM**

Resources:



IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT THE TEA CLASSROOM CONNECTIVITY TEAM