

TO THE DISTRICT ADDRESSED:

SUBJECT: E-rate Funding Year 2019 Special Construction Project Funding

The Texas Education Agency (TEA) was recently notified by the Legislative Budget Board (LBB) that the remaining funding under Rider 69 of the 2018-2019 General Appropriations Act can be used as state matching funds for the FY2019 E-rate season. The remaining funds, approximately \$2.7 million, can be used for state matching funds for special construction projects.

The state matching funds, along with federal matching funds from the E-rate program, lowers the district local share expenditures. For example, a district with an 80 percent or higher E-rate discount could receive 100 percent funding for an approved E-rate special construction project.

The Commissioner of Education has prioritized the use of the remaining funds. The first priority is for E-rate applicants denied funding for a special construction project during the Funding Year 2017 or Funding Year 2018 E-rate cycles by the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) the E-rate administrator for the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). The second priority is rural applicants identified by the Classroom Connectivity Initiative (CCI) as lacking fiber connections to a high-speed broadband network. The third priority is other applicants identified by the CCI as needing fiber connections to a high-speed broadband network.

The E-rate filing window opened on January 16, 2019 and closes on March 27, 2019 at 11:59 p.m., EDT.

The deadline to certify an FY2019 FCC Form 470 and still meet the required 28-day waiting period for the competitive bidding process is February 27, 2019 at 11:59 p.m., EST.

Applicants who file their E-rate application after the E-rate Form 471 filing window closes on March 27, 2019 will not be prioritized and will not be eligible for state matching funds until on-time filers are awarded funding. This means late E-rate filers may not receive any state matching funds.

Applicants requesting state matching funds are required to complete the Request for Application (RFA) grant application. The RFA for the Funding Year 2019 E-rate state matching funds will be posted on the Texas Education Agency website on March 21, 2019 and is due by May 22, 2019, executed with all appropriate district signatures. Additionally, the Agency will update required online forms, including the CCI.A, CCI.B and CCI.C as necessary.

If you have any questions, please contact the Classroom Connectivity Initiative at [classroomconnectivity@tea.texas.gov](mailto:classroomconnectivity@tea.texas.gov).

Melody Parrish

Deputy Commissioner  
Technology