COMMSCOPE®

CommScope (incl. Ruckus Networks) in the 2020-21 E-Rate Funding Year

E-Rate: What You Need to Know for 2020-21

What is E-rate?

"E-rate" is the Universal Service Schools and Libraries Program, a federal program to help schools and libraries enable digital learning. The program makes discounts and funding available for high-speed broadband, Wi-Fi and other communications technologies and services. It's funded through the Universal Service Fund—a fee that all Americans pay on telecommunications services.

How much funding can my school get?

There is at least $6 billion in available funds for fiscal year 2020. Even if you've already used some E-rate funds, many schools still have budget remaining since the E-rate budget was expanded in 2015. We expect any budget used in 2015 will be added back in 2020.

Why should I apply now?

E-Rate is basically a tax that constituents in your district have been paying for many years as part of their phone bills. If you don't use those funds that have already been collected, all that effort and money goes to waste. Worse, if you put off updating your school's digital connectivity, you may have to pull funding from other important priorities later. Bottom line: funds that can benefit your students are there for the asking, and it's time to "use them or lose them."

Is there a minimum budget for E-rate projects?

Your E-rate project should have a pre-discount budget of at least $9,582 over five years. There is proposal to increase this floor but has not been approved at time of this writing.

How does the E-rate application process work?

Once you decide what you'd like to do with your E-rate funds, file Form 470 to begin the bidding process for your proposed project. Vendors then have 28 days to bid on it. Once you choose a bid, file Form 471. After a review period, you will receive a Funding Commitment Decision Letter, after which your chosen vendor or service provider can start deploying services. The process takes 4-8 months from the time you file Form 471.

Click to view the Application Process flowchart

Can I use a managed wireless solution as part of my E-rate project?

Yes, you have three options for updating your school's wireless infrastructure under E-rate:

Who Owns It	Who Manages It	Per-student Budget Cap
School/ Library	School/ Library	$159/student
School/Library	Partner	$32/student/year over 5 years for partner management
Partner Owns, School/Library Leases	Partner	$32/student/year over 5 years for leasing and partner management

What if I have more questions?

We're here to help.

Email: eratehelpdesk@commscope.com

What is Ruckus Networks?

Ruckus Networks has joined CommScope. Ruckus network products help schools around the world get their classrooms ready for digital learning—without taking on huge new costs or management headaches. When schools need high-capacity, secure, reliable networks at an affordable price, they choose Ruckus. Together we offer:

Wi-Fi Access Points: Choose indoor, outdoor and specialty access points (APs) that deliver the industry's best Wi-Fi performance.

High-Capacity Switches: Affordably boost capacity as classroom bandwidth requirements grow.

Security & BYOD Policy: Onboard Chromebooks in seconds, with little or no IT effort, and secure every connection to protect student privacy.

Simple Management & Control: Choose from cloud-managed Wi-Fi, on-premises controller or controller-less management options.

Structured Cabling: CommScope Cat 6A copper cabling ensures your access layer foundation is ready and able with up to 10G speeds and support for High Power PoE.

Why Choose Ruckus for Your 2020-21 E-Rate Project?

Industry-Leading Performance: Ruckus' 100+ patents in RF and wireless technology deliver performance no competitor can touch.

Lower Costs: Make better use of your infrastructure and airspace to deliver more capacity with less equipment.

Built for Chromebooks and 1:1 Computing:

Only Ruckus has shown proven support for up to 60 concurrent Chromebook HD video streams.

Investment Protection: Easily, affordably upgrade switch uplinks as your bandwidth needs grow, without having to swap out hardware.

Easy Cloud-Managed Wi-Fi: Radically simplify the setup and management of your network.

Wireless that "Just Works": Get consistently great performance with little or no effort—and without needing an advanced degree in RF engineering.

Which Ruckus products and services are eligible and ineligible for e-rate?

The following products and services are listed as eligible or ineligible. Note: It is sometimes advisable to bid Ineligible products and services as well. Based on the scoring rubric, schools may award points for competitively priced ineligible products and services. Cloudpath software is a great example of a product valued by schools (for secure BYOD onboarding, or Chromebook device management), but is ineligible for E-rate funding.

RUCKUS SWITCH PRODUCTS	
ELIGIBLE PRODUCTS (ALL CATEGORY 2)	**INELIGIBLE PRODUCTS**
• ICX Switches (ALL, except for IPSec Module) • Network controller licenses (ICX) • Connectors/Optics • Training (end user) • Support - RTF or Remote Support, cloud managed offerings (up to 5 years) • Installation Services	• Redundant Power Supplies • Support - Next Business Day (Onsite or Parts) , 4 hour (On-site or Parts) (conditionally eligible under MIBS (includes cloud managed offerings, as a partner or Service Provider offering) • Certification Training • Extension Switches (Storage Ineligible)

RUCKUS WIRELESS PRODUCTS	
ELIGIBLE PRODUCTS (ALL CATEGORY 2)	**INELIGIBLE PRODUCTS**
• Access Points (ALL indoor and outdoor models) • ZoneDirector wireless controllers (ALL) • SmartCell Gateway (ALL) • SmartZone wireless controller appliances (ALL) • Cloud-managed Wi-Fi (Subscription service, warranty service included, license included, Access Point purchased separately) • Access point hardware accessories • Virtual SmartZone wireless controller software (ALL) • Training (end user) • Support - RTF or Remote Support, basic maintenance renewals • Installation Services	• M510 access point • Ruckus IoT Gateway • Ruckus IoT Plugs • SmartZone URL Filtering • Redundant Controllers • FlexMaster software • Support - Next Business Day (Onsite or Parts), 4 hour (On-site or Parts) (conditionally eligible under MIBS (includes cloud managed offerings, as a partner or Service Provider offering) • Ruckus Smart Positioning Technology (SPoT™) Location-based service (cloud or onpremises) • Ruckus SmartCell™ Insight (SCI) Big Data Wi-Fi analytics and reporting • Cloudpath security and policy management platform • Certification Training

COMMSCOPE STRUCTURED CABLING PRODUCTS		
ELIGIBLE PRODUCTS (ALL CATEGORY 2)		**INELIGIBLE PRODUCTS**
• Copper Cable • Patch Cords • Fiber • Raceway • Conduit • Patch Panels • Cabinets	• Racks • Jacks • Faceplates • Support - RTF or Remote Support, basic maintenance renewals • Installation Services	• Cabling for ineligible services (e.g., telecom) • Patch cords to end point devices

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