NYS ED.gov
New York State EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
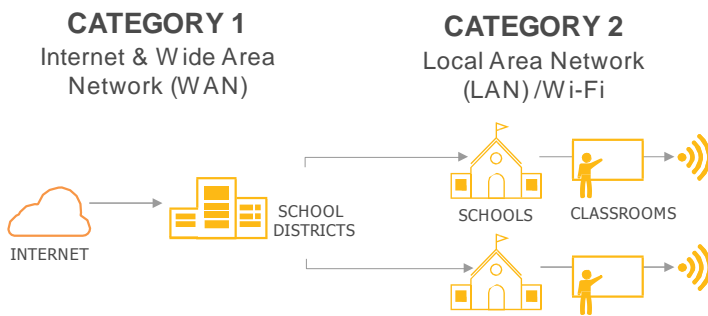Knowledge › Skill › Opportunity

E-rate Category 2 Funds for New York Schools

What are Category 2 Funds?

In 2015, as part of E-rate modernization, the FCC budgeted $150* per student to each school in the nation to fund internal connection (Local Area Network / Wi-Fi) upgrades. These funds are available for five years following the first time any school in the district applied for any portion of the funds.

CATEGORY 1
Internet & Wide Area Network (WAN)

CATEGORY 2
Local Area Network (LAN)/Wi-Fi

INTERNET → SCHOOL DISTRICTS → SCHOOLS → CLASSROOMS

Where Can I Get Help?

➢ Your Local RIC or BOCES

➢ The New York State E-Rate Coordinator

➢ Your District E-rate Consultant

➢ EducationSuperHighway

How much funding is available for New York Districts?

As of October 2018, there is still approximately **$182M** available in Category 2 funds for NYS schools. Of that amount, approximately **$39M** must be accessed by 233 NYS school districts **this year** or it is set to expire.
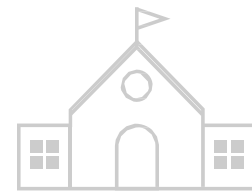
How does a district calculate its available budget?

Total Category 2 pre-discount budget is calculated on a per school basis by multiplying the student population of each school by $150*. The applicant can determine the amount they are responsible for paying by subtracting the amount subsidized by the E-rate program. The subsidy is based on the applicant's E-rate discount rate.

EXAMPLE SCHOOL
1,000 STUDENTS
80% CAT 2 DISCOUNT RATE

① **PRE-DISCOUNT BUDGET:** $150 **x** 1,000 (students) **=** **$150,000**

② **TOTAL DISCOUNTED BUDGET:** $150,000 **x** 80% (discount) **=** **$120,000**

③ **COST TO SCHOOL:** $150,000 — $120,000 **=** **$30,000**

*Indexed to inflation. 2017 amount = $156.23

Eligible Components

E-rate Category 2 covers internal connections, managed internal broadband services, and basic maintenance of internal connections.

WIRELESS
- ✓ Access Points
- ✓ Controllers
- ✓ Antennas
- ✓ Cloud-based wireless controllers

WIRED
- ✓ Structured cabling (copper/fiber)
- ✓ Network switches
- ✓ Racks & patch panels
- ✓ Routers

OTHER
- ✓ Caching - HW/SW/Servicing
- ✓ Basic Firewall Services
- ✓ Improvements, upgrades & software necessary to distribute broadband
- ✓ Taxes + surcharges & shipping charges
- ✓ Installation & configuration by VARs
- ✓ Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS)
- ✓ Licenses for eligible equipment
- ✓ Software that support eligible equipment
- ✓ Training on eligible equipment
- ✓ Managed Internal Broadband Service

Best Practices

ACCESS POINTS
- ✓ Minimum 802.11ac Wave 1 Access Points
- ✓ 1 per traditional classroom
- ✓ Special consideration should be given to:
  - ➤ Common areas, outdoor areas
  - ➤ High density vs. standard coverage in those common areas
    - ▪ Low density example: Agricultural Building
    - ▪ High density example: Gym, Auditorium
  - ➤ Building construction *(external and internal)*
  - ➤ Classroom size *(library, SpecEd, traditional, band)*
  - ➤ Site Survey\Pre-engineering\"Heat Map"

SWITCHES
- ✓ 1 Gbps copper ports + fiber expansion
- ✓ PoE with support for PoE+

STRUCTURED CABLING
- ✓ Copper needs to be Cat5e or greater
- ✓ New installs should be Cat6a or greater
- ✓ 10 Gbps fiber between closets
- ✓ 10 Gbps fiber for WAN connections

Where Can I Learn More?

EducationSuperHighway's Upgrade Toolkit provides districts with free Form 470/RFP templates and helpful resources to support your upgrade needs:
upgrade.educationsuperhighway.org

EducationSuperHighway's webinars help districts optimize their funds and run successful procurement. Watch their Category 2 webinar series On-Demand:
educationsuperhighway.org/webinars