

2026 E-rate OCS Keystone

E-rate provides critical funding for classroom computer access to the Internet. In June, there were two important updates to the school E-rate technology funding program. The E-rate program provides discounts on Internet service (Category 1) and classroom network equipment (Category 2). Most schools contract with a Category 1 E-rate consultant for Internet service funding requests. Note that I can assist you with E-rate questions including eligibility, preparing an application, and deadlines. Category 2 funding shown here includes network hardware and support purchases. The refresh/upgrade of network technology is similar to laptop computers (4-6 years).

Summary of the E-rate updates:

1. In June 2025, the US Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of the E-rate program. This provided continued program funding.
2. The 2026-2030 E-rate funding cycle increased the Category 2 (WiFi network equipment) funding floor to \$30,175. The Category 2 per student funding multiplier is now \$201.57. For example:

A	B	C	D
K-12 Students	Max. E-rate Cat 2 Application	Funding Eligible (40%)	Net School Cost
100	\$ 30,175	\$ 12,070	\$ 18,105
150	\$ 30,175	\$ 12,070	\$ 18,105
200	\$ 40,314	\$ 16,126	\$ 24,188
400	\$ 80,628	\$ 32,251	\$ 48,377