

Looking to Maximize Your E-rate Dollars?

Here are 10 tips from E-rate pros



For two decades, E-rate funds have made technology more affordable for schools and libraries across the U.S. In that time, many have discovered how to make the most of the E-rate dollars available to them. We've taken their input—as well as recommendations from E-rate consulting firm Funds for Learning—and developed this list of best practices: **our top tips for E-rate success.**

1

The E-rate program is now stronger!

Starting in 2021, at least \$8B in funding will be available and the five-year budget cycle will be reset.

\$8B

2

Know the updated budget calculation for your school or library.



For schools/districts: (Enrollment) x \$167 = total pre-discount budget \$ available. \$4.50 per square foot for all libraries (both rural and urban). The per-site funding “floor” will be increased from \$9,200 per site to \$25,000.

3

Assess resources, and decide who will manage your application.

55% of schools and libraries say the application process is getting easier and faster.



4

Create a tech vision for your school or library.

Engage your stakeholders, take a step back, and consider the bigger picture.



5

Assess needs and prioritize.

98% of applicants say their Wi-Fi network is critical to fulfilling their mission.

79% of applicants will need to upgrade their Wi-Fi within three years.



6

Plan + design your network to align with your vision, goals, and priorities.

See where you are today and what's needed by viewing our [Network Readiness Checklist](#).



7

Use a competitive bidding process.



Days of open bidding.



Cost is the highest- weighted factor.

8

Know the E-rate Productivity Center (EPC), and mind your **deadlines**.

55% of applicants agreed that it took less time to prepare and file applications last year.



9

Identify matching and other funding sources.

95% of applicants report that E-rate funds are not sufficient to meet their needs.



10

Manage the process year-round.

Manage deadlines and document work to stay ahead of the game and keep E-rate funds flowing.



Source: [Funds for Learning Survey](#)