Eligible Services for E-Rate FY2025 (Draft)

Category 1:
Telecommunications – Voice – no longer eligible – this includes both landline and cellphones as well as all supporting services (PRI Lines, SIP trunks etc). WAN or Internet lines supporting VoIP are still eligible.

Telecommunications – Data – no changes to discount rate
> Data Lines / WAN / Fiber (any technology)
> Wireless / Fiber / Radio Links
> School Bus WiFi including equipment, installation and monthly service charges *(new in 2024)*

Internet Access
> Access Lines/Ports - any technology/ any speed
> DNS/DHCP/Firewall/Managed Router Services may be included

7/31/2024 – the FCC has added WiFi hotspots and off-campus Internet usage to the Eligible Services List for FY2025. Both the equipment and service charges are under Category 1. There are budget limitations based on student population and discount level.

Category 2: FY2025 is the fifth and final year of the 5-year cycle for Category 2 Budgets.
1. Your school or district budget for Category 2 will be approximately $167/student over the five years 2021-2025. This is a pre-discount amount and represents the total amount over 5 years. For example; if you have 1000 students then you have $167,000.00 to spend on Category 2 items over those 5 years. The amount of your reimbursement is based on your discount rate.
2. This amount is no longer tied to individual schools and the equipment purchased is allocated to the district overall – not to individual schools.   Thankfully – you now have only a single, district-wide Cat2 budget to manage.
3. If you used Cat2 funds in FY2021, FY2022, FY2023 or FY2024 just subtract the amounts spent from your 5-year budget to get the remaining amount available.   Your original 5 year budget amount should stay the same regardless of changes in enrollment (it can go up but now down).

Eligible Items for Category 2:
Internal Connections *(may include Project Management. Installation and Configuration)*
> Cabling / Connectors / Racks (fiber and copper)
> UPS Equipment
> Wired LAN/WAN - Switches / Routers
> Wireless LAN/WAN – Access Points / Controllers
> Firewalls
> Caching Servers

BMIC – Basic Maintenance of Internal Connections
> Break/Fix Maintenance of all eligible equipment
> Software Upgrades, Tech Support

MIBS (Managed Internal Broadband Services)
> This is a fixed fee management of your WiFi network. Can be equipment that you already own or it can be a 'service' where the vendor retains ownership of equipment. Benefit is that this eligibility includes network management. See SLD's definition below.