

I am commenting on the new erate eligibility list. I believe that internal connections maint. should be listed as a priority 1 item since it is classified as a recurring service and is not counted in the 2 in 5 rule. To include it in priority 2 means that most districts never get the maint. because they are funded too late in the year. Most service providers will not "float" the district until the funding comes and most poor rural districts cannot afford to pay up front so they go without. Erate was set up to help these Districts not make them go without services. By making it P-1, the Districts can receive the funding early enough to take advantage of it.