

Internet Access

Eligibility Requirements for All Internet Access Services:

Internet access.

Internet Access means, generally, access to the Internet. The Internet is “the international computer network of both Federal and non-Federal interoperable packet switched data networks.” 47 U.S.C. § 230(f)(1). The Internet is also described as “the combination of computer facilities and electromagnetic transmission media, and related equipment and software, comprising the interconnected worldwide network of computer networks that employ the Transmission Control Protocol / Internet Protocol or any successor protocol to transmit information.” 47 U.S.C. § 231(e)(3). The Supreme Court has described the Internet as a “network of interconnected computers.” *National Cable & Telecomms. Ass’n v. Brand X Internet Servs.*, 545 U.S. 967, 974 (2005).

Support in this funding category is generally only available for basic conduit access to the Internet but is not available for content, equipment purchased by applicants, and services beyond basic conduit access to the Internet, except as expressly provided herein. Support may also be available for selected services that are an integral component part of an Internet Access service, and other services that the Commission has designated as eligible for discounts.

Maintenance and technical support appropriate to maintain reliable operation is eligible for discount when provided as a component of an eligible Internet access service. Please see the Miscellaneous section of this document for additional entries applicable to Internet Access, such as charges for installation and configuration.

Function	Description
<p>Internet-Based Interactive Communications Services</p>	<p>The following Internet-based services, which facilitate interactive communication, are eligible:</p> <p><u>E-mail Service.</u></p> <p><u>E-mail</u> service is eligible. E-mail service is often included in the cost of basic conduit access to the Internet or may be provided at a separate cost, either as a fixed charge and/or on a per-user or other basis.</p> <p>Some e-mail services may include substantial ineligible features, such as collaboration tools, and services to ineligible users. Funding is limited strictly to the eligible portion of an electronic mail service (i.e., the part of the service that provides for the transmission of messages and other information). <u>E-mail archiving</u> is not eligible for discount.</p>

	<p><u>Web hosting service.</u></p> <p>Eligible web hosting services enable a school or library to communicate over the Internet to the public or school stakeholders (students, parents, teachers and staff), and facilitate communication as their primary purpose and use. When included with a web hosting service, interactive communication features such as blogging, webmail, instant messaging, and chat are eligible.</p> <p>An eligible web hosting service provides schools and libraries: 1) the ability to store applicant provided content, 2) a web interface for publishing content, and 3) the bandwidth access that allows schools or libraries to display their web pages. We clarify that web pages protected by a username and password are eligible for funding as part of web hosting services. The fact that a school or library restricts access to all or part of its website to certain users—e.g., school administrators, teachers, librarians, students and parents — does not render the service ineligible for E-rate funds.</p>
<p>Basic Conduit Access to the Internet</p>	<p>Basic conduit access to the Internet is eligible regardless of technology platform. Access technologies include but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Broadband over Power Lines (BPL)</u>-enabled Internet access service • <u>Cable Modem</u> • <u>Digital Subscriber Line (DSL)</u> • <u>Fiber</u> • <u>Satellite service</u> • Telephone dial-up • <u>T-1</u> lines • Wireless <p>Eligible Internet access may include features typically provided for when provided as a standard component of a vendor’s Internet access service. Such features may include <u>Domain Name Service</u>, <u>Dynamic Host Configuration</u>, and basic <u>firewall</u> protection against unauthorized use and access. Firewall protection may not be provided by a vendor other than the Internet access provider and may not be priced out separately.</p> <p>Basic conduit access to the Internet may be used to access Internet-based distance learning and video conferencing services.</p>

	<p>A wireless Internet access service is eligible under the same provisions as wired access to the Internet.</p> <p>A <u>Wide Area Network</u> can be eligible for funding as a part of Internet access if the service is limited to basic conduit access to the Internet and the offering is the most cost-effective means of accessing the Internet.</p> <p>A <u>wireless Internet access service</u> designed for portable electronic devices is eligible if used for educational purposes and the off-campus use is removed by cost allocation. Applications (including GPS) for wireless devices are not eligible for discount. Service/Data charges dedicated solely to the provision of these applications are not eligible and require cost allocation.</p> <p>Mobile hotspot service designed for portable electronics is eligible if used for educational purposes, if off-campus use is cost-allocated, and when service is not duplicative of other wireless Internet access service. Hardware costs of the mobile hotspot embedded in or connected to the end-user device are not eligible.</p>
<p>Internet –Related Services</p>	<p>These services may be purchased separately or as part of a bundled Internet access service.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Interconnected Voice over Internet Protocol</u> (the regulatory classification of <u>interconnected VoIP</u> service does not affect the inclusion of this service as an eligible service in this category) • <u>Lit</u> or (see <u>Telecommunications</u> category) • <u>Domain name registration</u> is eligible if it is necessary for the creation of a school or library website.
<p>NOT Eligible for E-rate Funding as Internet Access Services</p>	<p>The following services are NOT ELIGIBLE for discount:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Services that go beyond basic conduit access to the Internet, such as Virtual Private Network services (except that, for purposes of clarification, Internet-Based Interactive Communications Services listed herein, which go beyond basic conduit access, are eligible) • <u>Online Backup Solutions</u>

• Applicants may accept an Internet Access service with minimal content included if the content meets the limitations for Ancillary Use. See Special Eligibility Conditions below for further information on Ancillary Use.)

• Costs attributable to the creation or modification of information, such as a web site creation fee or content maintenance fees.

Ineligible as Internet-Based Interactive Communications Services.

• Services or systems that do not facilitate web-based communication as their primary purpose and use, including student data systems, teacher grading software, or proprietary online curriculum, are not eligible.

• Third-party created content including, videos, recorded classes, online textbooks, curriculum or educational software programs, or other content or curriculum created and packaged by third party vendors;

• School/library administration or school/library operational systems such as student information systems, gradebooks or grading systems, financial systems, or student attendance files.

• Charges for video conferencing utilities, such as web meetings that are conducted through WebEx or GoToMeeting, even if provided via the Internet

• Internet2 membership fees

• Training regarding the use of the Internet

• Costs for training provided via the Internet

• A point-to-point connection (e.g., ISDN line) for distance learning or video conferencing is NOT eligible as Internet Access and may only be provided by telecommunication carriers (unless it is provided via fiber or dark fiber).

• Electronic library/on-line public access and associated software

• Applications (including GPS) for wireless devices are not eligible for discounts. Charges for Internet access service used solely for the provision of these applications are also not eligible.

Separate pricing for the following components when not included in the standard configuration of an Internet access service is **NOT ELIGIBLE**:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Caching</u>• <u>Content filtering</u>• <u>Web Casting</u> <p>Please see the <u>Miscellaneous</u> section of this document for additional entries applicable to Internet access. For example, finance charges and termination charges are not eligible.</p>
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