



**COLORADO**  
Department of Education

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# Technology Funding for Charter Schools

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# Topics

## E-rate

- What is E-rate
- How does it work
- How Charter Schools apply

## Connecting Colorado Students Grant

- Round 1
- Round 2
- Applying for Competitive Grants





E-rate

# What is E-rate

Federally authorized discount program for schools and libraries administered by the Universal Service Company (USAC).

- Established by Congress through the Telecommunications Act of 1996



# How Does E-rate Work?

Schools and Libraries can receive a 20% - 90% discount on internet access and infrastructure charges.

- Districts can apply on behalf of their schools
- Libraries can apply on behalf of their library or library district
- Non-public schools can apply on their behalf
- Charter schools can apply on their behalf



# E-rate Application Process



DETERMINE THE  
NEED



COMPETITIVELY  
BID



APPLY FOR  
DISCOUNTS



On a scale of 1 – 10 with 1 being not familiar and 10 being very familiar, where do you rate your knowledge of the E-rate program?

Does the Charter school use a consultant to complete the application process?

How familiar are you with the E-rate program?



# New! FCC Order

Beginning FY21, the FCC will permit charter schools to demonstrate that they are individually responsible for their finances and administration even when they are legally part of a school district under stat law.

- Allows charter schools to apply as an independent charter school with their own category two budget and discount rate.
- USAC has been directed to modify its procedures for determining whether a charter school is dependent or independent of the district for the calculation of discounts and the category two budget.







# Connecting Colorado Students Grant Funding



# Connecting Colorado Students Grant – Rd 1

To support students with a high-quality educational experience, the State of Colorado has created a public-private partnership with the Governor's Office, Attorney General's Office and Colorado Department of Education in coordination with internet service providers and other community focused organizations to provide broadband access to all students with remote learning needs for the 2020-21 school year.

- Website: <https://www.cde.state.co.us/caresact/ccsgapplication>
- Federal ESSER State set-aside funds
- Award Notifications: Dec. 2, 2020
- Number of Applicants Received: 27
- Requested Amount: \$2,046,816.55
- Reimbursement



**House Bill 20B-1001** – Supports expanding broadband access for preschool through twelfth grade education through the Connecting Colorado Students Grant program and making an appropriation.

- Adds \$20 million to the CCSG program
- Clarifies purpose areas for applying
- Keeps prioritization requirements
- Requires spending by end of 20-21 school year
- Adds reporting requirements
- Direct funding



# Charter School Access to Competitive Grants

Charter schools should contact their authorizer and follow the direction provided to them to apply for competitive grants.

- If authorizer desires to include the charter school in their application
  - Authorizer will include the needs of the charter school and ensure those needs are met with the funds awarded
- If authorizer desires charter to submit an application that is separate from authorizer application
  - Charter school will need direction from authorizer to complete the contact section of the application and sign forms



# Other Technology Funding Sources

- ESEA Title Funds (Title IV)
- ESSER Funds & CRF
  - Used to meet technology needs in response to the COVID-19 pandemic





Questions?  
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