



- Funding Status
 - E-Rate for FY 2024
- Updates and Reminders
 - Upcoming Dates
 - FCC Streamlined Decisions
 - FCC and USDE Cybersecurity Resource Guide
 - Potential E-Rate Assistance for Hurricane Helene Affected Schools and Libraries

Funding Status

E-Rate for FY 2024:

Wave 24 for FY 2024 was released on Thursday, October 3rd, for \$24.3 million including \$517 thousand for three North Carolina applicants. Total funding is now \$2.27 billion including \$66.2 million for North Carolina. Currently, USAC has funded 94.6% of the originally submitted applications, representing 76.1% of the dollars requested.

Updates and Reminders

Upcoming Dates:

- | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------|--|---------|------------|---------|------------|---------|------------|---------|------------|
| October 15 | USAC webinar: Cybersecurity Pilot Program Overview for Service Providers (registration). | | | | | | | | |
| October 17 | Form 486 deadline for FY 2023 Wave 56. More generally, the Form 486 deadline is 120 days from the FCDL date, or the service start date (typically July 1 st), whichever is later. The next Form 486 deadline for FY 2023 is: <table><tbody><tr><td>Wave 57</td><td>10/28/2024</td></tr><tr><td>Wave 58</td><td>11/07/2024</td></tr><tr><td>Wave 59</td><td>11/14/2024</td></tr><tr><td>Wave 60</td><td>11/21/2024</td></tr></tbody></table> | Wave 57 | 10/28/2024 | Wave 58 | 11/07/2024 | Wave 59 | 11/14/2024 | Wave 60 | 11/21/2024 |
| Wave 57 | 10/28/2024 | | | | | | | | |
| Wave 58 | 11/07/2024 | | | | | | | | |
| Wave 59 | 11/14/2024 | | | | | | | | |
| Wave 60 | 11/21/2024 | | | | | | | | |
| October 28 | Due date for nominations for eight positions on the USAC Board of Directors (see DA 24-867). | | | | | | | | |
| October 28 | E-rate invoice deadline for FY 2023 recurring services and final date to request an invoice deadline extension. | | | | | | | | |
| October 29 | Form 486 deadline for FY 2024 Waves 1-10. More generally, the Form 486 deadline is 120 days from the FCDL date, or the service start date (typically July 1 st), whichever is later. Upcoming Form 486 deadlines for FY 2024 are: | | | | | | | | |

| | |
|---------|------------|
| Wave 11 | 10/31/2024 |
| Wave 12 | 11/08/2024 |
| Wave 13 | 11/15/2024 |
| Wave 14 | 11/22/2024 |

November 1 Close of the FCC’s Cybersecurity Pilot Program Form 484 Part 1 application window.

FCC Streamlined Decisions:

The FCC issued another set of “streamlined,” precedent-based appeals and waivers last week. As with past streamlined decisions, applicants facing similar problems to those addressed in these decisions may garner useful information by carefully reading the additional FCC explanations found in the footnotes. The original appeal and/or waiver requests can be found online in the FCC’s [Search for Filings](#) under Docket 02-6 (E-rate) or Docket 21-93 (ECF).

Two of the latest and unusual decisions took USAC to task for its action or lack thereof. In one case, the FCC criticized a USAC decision rationale as “vague” and remanded it back to USAC with instructions “to provide specific explanations for its decision.” In the other case, the FCC granted a waiver in a situation where the “applicant error could have been corrected promptly but for USAC inaction.”

In the other September streamlined decisions ([DA 24-973](#)), the FCC:

1. E-Rate Dismissed:
 - a. Five Petitions for Reconsideration for failure “to identify any material error, omission, or reason warranting reconsideration”.
 - b. One Request for Review to allow an appeal to be filed with USAC.
2. E-Rate Granted:
 - a. Three Requests for Waiver remanding applications to USAC permitting the submission of discount rate information.
 - b. Three Requests for Review or Waiver allowing applicants additional time to respond to USAC requests for information.
 - c. Four Requests for Review or Waiver allowing applicants additional time to respond to USAC inquiries during invoicing.
 - d. One Petition for Reconsideration for a Form 471 filed more than 30 days late due to a serious illness.
 - e. One Petition for Reconsideration for an untimely filed appeal due to a serious illness.
 - f. One Request for Waiver for a late-filed Form 471 due to a school reorganization.
 - g. One Request for Waiver for a late-filed Form 486 “where the applicant demonstrated good cause for the late filing.”
 - h. Five Requests for Waiver involving ministerial and/or clerical errors resulting in incorrect or missing Form 471 information.
 - i. One Request for Waiver dealing with unutilized equipment remanded to USAC.
 - j. Five Requests for Waiver involving USAC decisions released after invoice deadlines.

- k. Seven Requests for Waiver for appeals and waivers filed “only a few days late.”
- l. One Request for Waiver of the special construction service delivery deadline.
3. E-Rate Denied:
 - a. Thirty-six Requests for Waiver for late-filed Form 471 applications where the applicants failed to present special circumstances justifying a waiver.
 - b. Sixteen Requests for Review or Waiver for late-filed invoice or invoice deadline extension requests.
 - c. Two Requests for Waiver for ministerial and clerical errors.
 - d. Two Requests for Waiver for relying on Form 470s that did not seek bids on types of services later requested.
 - e. Ten Requests for Review or Waiver for untimely filed appeals or waivers.
4. ECF Dismissed:
 - a. One Request for Waiver and/or Review dismissed as insufficient.
 - b. Three Requests for Waiver deemed moot as the entities had been fully compensated.
 - c. One Request for Waiver deemed moot because of actions already taken by USAC.
5. ECF Granted:
 - a. Two Requests for Waiver remanded to USAC involving the early delivery of services.
6. ECF Denied:
 - a. Two Requests for Review or Waiver deemed late filed.

FCC and USDE Cybersecurity Resource Guide:

The Federal Communications Commission and the Department of Education, with input from the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, released a [resource guide](#) to help schools and libraries evaluate their cybersecurity risks and identify the most impactful cybersecurity solutions. The guide can also help schools and libraries as they complete Form 484 Part 1 applications for the FCC’s Schools and Libraries Cybersecurity Pilot Program. It also serves broadly as a resource for schools and libraries as they take steps to better protect their networks.

Potential E-Rate Assistance for Hurricane Helene Affected Schools and Libraries:

The FCC has a history, dating most notably from Hurricane Katrina in 2005, of providing E-Rate assistance to schools and libraries severely damaged by catastrophic hurricanes. Assistance has included actions such as:

- Filing deadline extensions.
- Relief from document retention rules for destroyed records.
- Special filing windows.
- Exemption from certain Form 470 filing and competitive bidding requirements.
- Relaxation of service substitution rules.

No such actions have yet been announced in response to the damage inflicted by Hurricane Helene. However, we were encouraged by the [announcement](#) that FCC Chairwoman Rosenworcel was visiting Asheville and Charlotte, NC, last Friday to assess ongoing Hurricane Helene communications recovery efforts with at least one stop scheduled at a local library serving as a community Wi-Fi hub.

Newsletter information and disclaimer: This newsletter may contain unofficial information on prospective E-rate developments and/or may reflect E-Rate Central's own interpretations of E-rate practices and regulations. Such information is provided for planning and guidance purposes only. It is not meant, in any way, to supplant official announcements and instructions provided by USAC, the FCC, or NCDPI.

Additional North Carolina specific E-rate information is available through our Web site — <http://www.e-ratecentral.com/us/stateInformation.asp?state=NC>. Note that this site provides easy access to formatted North Carolina applicant E-rate histories via the Billed Entity Number (“BEN”) search mechanism in the upper left-hand corner. Detailed information can be obtained by “drilling down” using the links for specific funding years and individual FRNs.

If you have received this newsletter from a colleague and you would like to receive your own copy of the North Carolina E-Rate Forum, send an email to join-ncerate@lists.dpi.state.nc.us. Please include your name, organization, telephone, and e-mail address.

In compliance with federal law, the NC Department of Public Instruction administers all state-operated educational programs, employment activities and admissions without discrimination because of race, religion, national or ethnic origin, color, age, military service, disability, or gender, except where exemption is appropriate and allowed by law.