

**SCUSD PREPARES TO APPLY FOR E-RATE YEAR 15 (2012-13) TECHNOLOGY INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADES**

## E-RATE PROGRAM INFORMATION

### E-Rate Background

The E-Rate program is administered by the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) under the direction of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). The program was established in 1996 and provides discounts that help schools and libraries obtain access to state of the art services and technologies. The program also addresses the need for schools and libraries to have communications services such as voice and data lines that are discounted by the individual telecommunications carriers at the associated discount rates. The eligibility and level of associated discount that a school or library receives is determined by the level of poverty that the school or library serves as measured by the percentage of students eligible for the national school lunch program.

### E-Rate District Use Summary

E-Rate is a federal technology infrastructure discount program for public schools and libraries



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### How E-Rate Funding Works

E-Rate funding is requested under four categories of service: telecommunications services such as voice and data lines, internet access, internal connections, and basic maintenance of internal connections. Funding for telecommunications services must be reviewed by the school or library and requested annually but is guaranteed as long as the school or library certifies the services are used to support E-Rate eligible sites.

Internal Connections funding provides associated discount rates for additional resources including network cabling and equipment (e.g., network switches, wireless systems, phone switches, etc.), and the other elements that are necessary to utilize the connectivity funded by the program.

Funding is awarded starting with telecommunications services as priority one then moving to Internal Connections as priority two. All Internal Connections or priority two applications

the 90% eligibility level and continues until the funding cap is met, currently set at \$2.25 billion. In recent years, the program has only been able to fund down to the 87% eligibility level, however in E-Rate year 13 (school year 2009-2010) funding level reached the 40% eligibility level.

### Eligible Internal Connections:

- Telecommunications wiring
- Routers
- Switches
- Network Servers
- Certain system operating software
- Wireless Access Points
- Installation & basic maintenance
- Private Branch Exchange (PBX)

### Ineligible Internal Connections:

- Personal computers
- Mobile Devices
- FAX machines
- Electrical wiring
- Asbestos removal
- Cameras
- Interactive Whiteboards
- Projectors