

## E-rate Support for Wi-Fi<sup>1</sup> By State, 2015

The Schools and Libraries program, also known as E-rate, provides funding to make internet connectivity and other telecommunications services more affordable for schools and libraries. Created as part of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, E-rate provides discounts on the cost of services, with high-poverty and rural schools and libraries receiving additional funding. In 2014, the Federal Communications Commission adopted the E-rate Modernization Order as part of an effort to update the program and expand high-speed Wi-Fi access to schools and libraries. The information contained in the table below highlights the amount of E-rate funding disbursed to schools for Wi-Fi and is based on an analysis conducted by Funds for Learning® of the 2015 E-rate fund disbursement data reported by the Universal Service Administrative Company.

State	Number of Schools Receiving E-rate Funds <sup>2</sup>	Total E-rate Funds Disbursed to Schools	Percentage of E-rate Funds Disbursed to Low-Income Schools <sup>3</sup>	Percentage of E-rate Funds Disbursed to Rural Schools <sup>4</sup>
Alabama	729	\$27,089,686	92%	50%
Alaska	214	\$2,787,141	26%	53%
Arizona	1,014	\$28,099,505	88%	31%
Arkansas	516	\$13,472,580	93%	56%
California	4,456	\$120,367,770	89%	9%
Colorado	668	\$6,286,834	50%	39%
Connecticut	429	\$10,199,293	75%	3%
Delaware	57	\$1,674,554	66%	24%
District of Columbia	92	\$1,644,070	99%	0%
Florida	1,413	\$71,521,799	99%	12%
Georgia	1,133	\$50,807,328	88%	53%
Hawaii	269	\$5,350,520	99%	25%
Idaho	223	\$3,195,895	61%	59%
Illinois	1,903	\$44,504,519	80%	16%
Indiana	730	\$21,258,971	80%	34%
Iowa	458	\$4,300,811	55%	55%
Kansas	584	\$6,443,700	66%	59%
Kentucky	1,066	\$23,834,343	94%	65%
Louisiana	1,024	\$39,429,571	98%	46%
Maine	137	\$2,135,462	63%	71%
Maryland	431	\$5,654,331	75%	18%
Massachusetts	721	\$18,938,871	83%	5%
Michigan	1,226	\$25,612,991	76%	27%
Minnesota	995	\$15,122,517	56%	36%
Mississippi	654	\$19,653,494	98%	71%
Missouri	1,236	\$20,860,130	71%	58%

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Montana	236	\$1,680,148	29%	59%
Nebraska	515	\$6,339,847	50%	43%
Nevada	115	\$3,782,993	45%	46%
New Hampshire	151	\$1,193,224	24%	33%
New Jersey	1,294	\$24,624,238	79%	6%
New Mexico	513	\$5,987,182	95%	40%
New York	2,060	\$32,736,620	76%	13%
North Carolina	1,319	\$50,337,229	95%	60%
North Dakota	147	\$1,360,383	15%	64%
Ohio	1,899	\$27,160,720	69%	28%
Oklahoma	1,094	\$23,245,660	87%	58%
Oregon	473	\$8,840,764	93%	41%
Pennsylvania	1,435	\$31,076,579	64%	20%
Rhode Island	120	\$1,700,857	91%	0%
South Carolina	722	\$23,617,613	95%	61%
South Dakota	177	\$1,480,141	33%	77%
Tennessee	716	\$15,451,590	100%	56%
Texas	3,598	\$128,418,711	82%	32%
Utah	348	\$5,260,204	59%	47%
Vermont	125	\$921,920	67%	93%
Virginia	895	\$18,718,557	55%	41%
Washington	1,072	\$17,005,910	72%	37%
West Virginia	191	\$5,366,630	89%	46%
Wisconsin	1,031	\$16,004,114	59%	40%
Wyoming	81	\$746,757	6%	93%
<b>Total</b>	<b>42,705</b>	<b>\$1,043,305,275</b>	<b>83%</b>	<b>33%</b>

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**Funds For Learning**® helps individual schools and libraries navigate the E-rate funding process and advocates for policies and regulations that support internet access for all students and library patrons. [www.FundsForLearning.com](http://www.FundsForLearning.com)



## Notes

- <sup>1</sup> For the purposes of this table, the term “Wi-Fi” describes all infrastructure and services associated with wireless internet and network connections. These goods and services are classified as “category two” E-rate funds by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).
- <sup>2</sup> In this table, the number of schools receiving E-rate funds is based on the applicant-reported “recipient of service” list included on Fiscal Year 2015 Form 471 applications. The number includes school sites that receive the benefit of shared network electronics that may be located at an administrative facility and includes only those funded requests that have been utilized.
- <sup>3</sup> For the purposes of this table, the term “low-income” refers to E-rate recipients that serve a population where 50 percent or more of students qualify for the National School Lunch Program, a common measure of poverty. These entities qualify for the highest levels of E-rate funding, which equate to at least an 80 percent discount on the cost of Wi-Fi services. The FCC determines an E-rate applicant’s discount level based on the poverty level of the population the applicant serves and whether the applicant is in an urban or rural area. For more information on how the FCC determines E-rate discount levels, see <http://usac.org/res/documents/sl/pdf/samples/Discount-Matrix.pdf>. Percentages in this table have been rounded to the nearest whole number.
- <sup>4</sup> Schools, school districts, and libraries are the primary recipients of E-rate funds; however, other related entities also may receive E-rate funds. All percentages in this table are based on fund disbursements to all E-rate recipients. For a full list of entities eligible to apply for E-rate funding, see <http://usac.org/sl/applicants/step03/discounts.aspx>.

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