

**Federal Communications Commission**

**§ 54.507**

school district in which they are located for each of their branches or facilities.

(3) The Administrator shall classify schools and libraries as “urban” or “rural” based on location in an urban or rural area, according to the following designations.

(i) Schools and libraries located in metropolitan counties, as measured by the Office of Management and Budget’s Metropolitan Statistical Area method, shall be designated as urban, except for those schools and libraries located within metropolitan counties identified by census block or tract in the Goldsmith Modification.

(ii) Schools and libraries located in non-metropolitan counties, as measured by the Office of Management and Budget’s Metropolitan Statistical Area method, shall be designated as rural. Schools and libraries located in rural areas within metropolitan counties identified by census block or tract in the Goldsmith Modification shall also be designated as rural.

(4) School districts, library systems, or other billed entities shall calculate discounts on supported services described in §54.502(b) that are shared by

two or more of their schools, libraries, or consortia members by calculating an average based on the applicable discounts of all member schools and libraries. School districts, library systems, or other billed entities shall ensure that, for each year in which an eligible school or library is included for purposes of calculating the aggregate discount rate, that eligible school or library shall receive a proportionate share of the shared services for which support is sought. For schools, the average discount shall be a weighted average of the applicable discount of all schools sharing a portion of the shared services, with the weighting based on the number of students in each school. For libraries, the average discount shall be a simple average of the applicable discounts to which the libraries sharing a portion of the shared services are entitled.

(c) *Matrix.* The Administrator shall use the following matrix to set a discount rate to be applied to eligible interstate services purchased by eligible schools, school districts, libraries, or library consortia based on the institution’s level of poverty and location in an “urban” or “rural” area.

Schools and Libraries discount matrix	Discount level	
	Urban discount	Rural discount
How disadvantaged?		
% of students eligible for national school lunch program		
<1 .....	20	25
1-19 .....	40	50
20-34 .....	50	60
35-49 .....	60	70
50-74 .....	80	80
75-100 .....	90	90

(d) [Reserved]

(e) *Interstate and intrastate services.* Federal universal service support for schools and libraries shall be provided for both interstate and intrastate services.

(1) Federal universal service support under this subpart for eligible schools and libraries in a state is contingent upon the establishment of intrastate discounts no less than the discounts applicable for interstate services.

(2) A state may, however, secure a temporary waiver of this latter requirement based on unusually compelling conditions.

(f) *State support.* Federal universal service discounts shall be based on the price of a service prior to the application of any state provided support for schools or libraries.

[62 FR 32948, June 17, 1997, as amended at 62 FR 41304, Aug. 1, 1997; 63 FR 2130, Jan. 13, 1998; 63 FR 70572, Dec. 21, 1998; 75 FR 75414, Dec. 3, 2010]

**§ 54.506 [Reserved]**

**§ 54.507 Cap.**

(a) *Amount of the annual cap.* In funding year 2010 and subsequent funding years, the \$2.25 billion funding cap on

federal universal service support for schools and libraries shall be automatically increased annually to take into account increases in the rate of inflation as calculated in paragraph (a)(1) of this section.

(1) *Increase calculation.* To measure increases in the rate of inflation for the purposes of this paragraph (a), the Commission shall use the Gross Domestic Product Chain-type Price Index (GDP-CPI). To compute the annual increase as required by this paragraph (a), the percentage increase in the GDP-CPI from the previous year will be used. For instance, the annual increase in the GDP-CPI from 2008 to 2009 would be used for the 2010 funding year. The increase shall be rounded to the nearest 0.1 percent by rounding 0.05 percent and above to the next higher 0.1 percent and otherwise rounding to the next lower 0.1 percent. This percentage increase shall be added to the amount of the annual funding cap from the previous funding year. If the yearly average GDP-CPI decreases or stays the same, the annual funding cap shall remain the same as the previous year.

(2) *Public notice.* When the calculation of the yearly average GDP-CPI is determined, the Wireline Competition Bureau shall publish a public notice in the FEDERAL REGISTER within 60 days announcing any increase of the annual funding cap based on the rate of inflation.

(3) *Amount of unused funds.* All funds collected that are unused shall be carried forward into subsequent funding years for use in the schools and libraries support mechanism in accordance with the public interest and notwithstanding the annual cap.

(i) The Administrator shall report to the Commission, on a quarterly basis, funding that is unused from prior years of the schools and libraries support mechanism.

(ii) *Application of unused funds.* On an annual basis, in the second quarter of each calendar year, all funds that are collected and that are unused from prior years shall be available for use in the next full funding year of the schools and libraries mechanism in accordance with the public interest and notwithstanding the annual cap as described in this paragraph (a).

(b) A funding year for purposes of the schools and libraries cap shall be the period July 1 through June 30.

(c) *Requests.* Funds shall be available to fund discounts for eligible schools and libraries and consortia of such eligible entities on a first-come-first-served basis, with requests accepted beginning on the first of July prior to each funding year. The Administrator shall maintain on the Administrator's website a running tally of the funds already committed for the existing funding year. The Administrator shall implement an initial filing period that treats all schools and libraries filing within that period as if their applications were simultaneously received. The initial filing period shall begin on the date that the Administrator begins to receive applications for support, and shall conclude on a date to be determined by the Administrator. The Administrator may implement such additional filing periods as it deems necessary.

(d) *Annual filing requirement.* Schools and libraries, and consortia of such eligible entities shall file new funding requests for each funding year no sooner than the July 1 prior to the start of that funding year. Schools, libraries, and eligible consortia must use recurring services for which discounts have been committed by the Administrator within the funding year for which the discounts were sought. The deadline for implementation of non-recurring services will be September 30 following the close of the funding year. An applicant may request and receive from the Administrator an extension of the implementation deadline for non-recurring services if it satisfies one of the following criteria:

(1) The applicant's funding commitment decision letter is issued by the Administrator on or after March 1 of the funding year for which discounts are authorized;

(2) The applicant receives a service provider change authorization or service substitution authorization from the Administrator on or after March 1 of the funding year for which discounts are authorized;

(3) The applicant's service provider is unable to complete implementation for

reasons beyond the service provider's control; or

(4) The applicant's service provider is unwilling to complete installation because funding disbursements are delayed while the Administrator investigates their application for program compliance.

(e) *Long term contracts.* If schools and libraries enter into long term contracts for eligible services, the Administrator shall only commit funds to cover the pro rata portion of such a long term contract scheduled to be delivered during the funding year for which universal service support is sought.

(f) *Date services must be supplied.* The Administrator shall not approve funding for services received by a school or library before January 1, 1998.

(g) *Rules of priority.* The Administrator shall act in accordance with paragraph (g)(1) of this section with respect to applicants that file an FCC Form 471, as described in §54.504(a), when a filing period described in paragraph (c) of this section is in effect. The Administrator shall act in accordance with paragraph (g)(2) of this section with respect to applicants that file an FCC Form 471, as described in §54.504(a), at all times other than within a filing period described in paragraph (c) of this section.

(1) When the filing period described in paragraph (c) of this section closes, the Administrator shall calculate the total demand for support submitted by applicants during the filing period. If total demand exceeds the total support available for that funding year, the Administrator shall take the following steps:

(i) The Administrator shall first calculate the demand for services listed under the telecommunications services, telecommunications, and Internet access categories on the eligible services list for all discount levels, as determined by the schools and libraries discount matrix in §54.505(c). These services shall receive first priority for the available funding.

(ii) The Administrator shall then calculate the amount of available funding remaining after providing support for the telecommunications and Internet access categories for all discount levels. The Administrator shall allocate

the remaining funds to the requests for support for internal connections, beginning with the most economically disadvantaged schools and libraries, as determined by the schools and libraries discount matrix in §54.505(c) of this part. Schools and libraries eligible for a 90 percent discount shall receive first priority for the remaining funds, and those funds will be applied to their requests for internal connections.

(iii) To the extent that funds remain after the allocation described in §§54.507(g)(1)(i) and (ii), the Administrator shall next allocate funds toward the requests for internal connections submitted by schools and libraries eligible for an 80 percent discount, then for a 70 percent discount, and shall continue committing funds for internal connections in the same manner to the applicants at each descending discount level until there are no funds remaining.

NOTE TO PARAGRAPH (g)(1)(iii): To the extent that there are single discount percentage levels associated with "shared services" under §54.505(b)(4), the Administrator shall allocate funds for internal connections beginning at the ninety percent discount level, then for the eighty-nine percent discount, then for the eighty-eight percent discount, and shall continue committing funds for internal connections in the same manner to the applicants at each descending discount level until there are no funds remaining.

(iv) If the remaining funds are not sufficient to support all of the funding requests within a particular discount level, Schools and Libraries Corporation shall divide the total amount of remaining support available by the amount of support requested within the particular discount level to produce a pro-rata factor. Schools and Libraries Corporation shall reduce the support level for each applicant within the particular discount level, by multiplying each applicant's requested amount of support by the pro-rata factor.

(v) Schools and Libraries Corporation shall commit funds to all applicants consistent with the calculations described herein.

(2) *Rules of priority.* When expenditures in any funding year reach the level where only \$250 million remains before the cap will be reached, funds

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shall be distributed in accordance to the following rules of priority:

(i) The Administrator or the Administrator's subcontractor shall post a message on the Administrator's website, notify the Commission, and take reasonable steps to notify the educational and library communities that commitments for the remaining \$250 million of support will only be made to the most economically disadvantaged schools and libraries (those in the two most disadvantaged categories) for the next 30 days or the remainder of the funding year, whichever is shorter.

(ii) The most economically disadvantaged schools and libraries (those in the two most disadvantaged categories) that have not received discounts from the universal service support mechanism in the previous or current funding years shall have exclusive rights to secure commitments for universal service support under this subpart for a 30-day period or the remainder of the funding year, whichever is shorter. If such schools and libraries have received universal service support only for basic telephone service in the previous or current funding years, they shall remain eligible for the highest priority once spending commitments leave only \$250 million remaining before the funding cap is reached.

(iii) Other economically disadvantaged schools and libraries (those in the two most disadvantaged categories) that have received discounts from the universal service support mechanism in the previous or current funding years shall have the next highest priority, if additional funds are available at the end of the 30-day period or the funding year, whichever is shorter.

(iv) After all requests submitted by schools and libraries described in paragraphs (g)(2) and (g)(3) of this section during the 30-day period have been met, the Administrator shall allocate the remaining available funds to all other eligible schools and libraries in the order in which their requests have been received by the Administrator, until the \$250 million is exhausted or the funding year ends.

[62 FR 32948, June 17, 1997]

EDITORIAL NOTE: For FEDERAL REGISTER citations affecting § 54.507, see the List of CFR

Sections Affected, which appears in the Finding Aids section of the printed volume and at [www.fdsys.gov](http://www.fdsys.gov).

**§ 54.508 Technology plans.**

(a) Applicants must develop a technology plan when requesting discounts for internal connections and basic maintenance for internal connections. Applicants must document the date on which the technology plan was created. The technology plan must include the following elements:

(1) A clear statement of goals and a realistic strategy for using telecommunications and information technology to improve education or library services;

(2) A professional development strategy to ensure that the staff understands how to use these new technologies to improve education or library services;

(3) An assessment of the telecommunication services, hardware, software, and other services that will be needed to improve education or library services; and

(4) An evaluation process that enables the school or library to monitor progress toward the specified goals and make mid-course corrections in response to new developments and opportunities as they arise.

(b) *Relevance of approval under Enhancing Education through Technology.* Technology plans that meet the standards of the U.S. Department of Education's Enhancing Education Through Technology (EETT), 20 U.S.C. 6764, are sufficient for satisfying paragraphs (a)(1) through (4) of this section. Furthermore, to the extent that the U.S. Department of Education adopts future technology plan requirements that require one or more of the four elements described in paragraph (a) of this section, such plans will be acceptable for satisfying those elements of paragraph (a) of this section. Applicants with such plans will only need to supplement such plans with the analysis needed to satisfy those elements of paragraph (a) of this section not covered by the future Department of Education technology plan requirements.

(c) *Timing of certification.* As required under §§ 54.503(c)(2)(iii) and 54.504(a)(1)(iv), applicants must certify