

TOPIC: E-RATE

QUESTION: How is an e-rate discount actually realized?

“Once the Form 486 is filed, the applicant can realize their e-rate discount in two different ways: First, they can pay for the full undiscounted costs of service up front, either monthly or in one lump sum. The applicant can then request reimbursement, or a rebate, through the program. The other method, a district can work with their service provider and request that the service provider discount their bills up front. The Form 486 is a very important part of the e-rate process. If an applicant never files the form 486, they will not be able to receive their discounted services.”

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