



E-RATE BUYING GUIDE:

Wireless Broadband Routers for School Buses

The American Rescue Plan Act (ARP) of 2021 is a \$1.9 trillion coronavirus relief package, with \$7.1 billion earmarked for the [Emergency Connectivity Fund](#) (ECF). The ECF provides “funding for schools and libraries for the purchase, during the coronavirus (COVID- 19) pandemic, of connected devices and broadband connections for use by students, school staff, and library patrons.” More specifically, this funding has been set aside for remote teaching and learning at locations other than schools and libraries.

The FCC has elected to distribute the fund through a process similar to the [E-Rate](#) application system.

Who is eligible?

In all cases, Internet access obtained through this program must be used primarily for facilitating learning activities, such as through a school’s remote or hybrid learning plan.

- School buses and bookmobiles
- Schools and libraries NOT participating in the E-Rate program
- Nontraditional institutions that facilitate education, including community centers and churches*
- Credentialed students, school staff, and library patrons**

What is eligible?

ECF funds can only be applied to certain categories of hardware and services. For example, ECF funds may be used to pay for or reimburse purchases of:

- Internet modems
(Funding cap TBD)
- Wi-Fi hotspots
(\$250 reimbursement cap)
- Internet routers
(Funding cap TBD)
- Laptops, tablets, and Chromebooks
(\$400 reimbursement cap)

ECF funds may also be used for obtaining and maintaining these services (in most cases):

- Wireless Internet (including mobile, satellite, microwave, and fixed wireless)
- DSL Internet
- Cable Internet
- Leased lit fiber Internet

How do I apply?

A revised E-Rate application process for this special round of funding will be used to lower the barrier for obtaining ECF funds. As such, eligible institutions will be able to apply online using the E-Rate EPC Portal. All applicants should note that part of the revised application process stipulates: There will be no FCC-specific competitive bidding mandates, meaning applicants will not be required to file an FCC Form 470. However, applicants will be required to follow all applicable local, state, and Tribal procurement requirements.

Filing window — The initial filing window will be open for 45 days and is estimated to begin in early June, 2021. For schools and libraries seeking reimbursement on new Cradlepoint purchases made between July 1, 2021, and June 20, 2022, applications are to be submitted using the existing E-Rate online portal. Additional prospective or retroactive filing windows may be opened if significant funds are still available.

[Learn more at \[cradlepoint.com/e-rate\]\(https://www.cradlepoint.com/e-rate\)](https://www.cradlepoint.com/e-rate)
Contact Sales & Support: +1-855-813-3385

*Non-traditional entities and requests will need to work with school districts to request services. **For those who otherwise did not or do not have Internet access (subject to certification for school applicants.) NOTE: Desktops and cell phones are not eligible for reimbursement under the current ECF requirements.