

Texas State Library & Archives Commission

E-Rate Fact Sheet

E-Rate is a federal program that provides discounts to assist schools and public libraries in the United States to obtain affordable **telecommunications** and **Internet access**.

Also known as the Schools and Libraries Program of the Universal Service Fund, **E-Rate** is administered by the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) under the direction of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).

The **Focus** of E-rate is to support **connectivity** –the conduit or pipeline for communications using telecommunications services and/or the Internet.

- **Funding** may be requested under three categories of service:
 - Telecommunications services
 - Internet access
 - Internal connections
- **Discounts** for support depend on the level of poverty and the urban/rural status of the population served. Discounts range from **20%** to **90%** of the costs of eligible services.
- Eligible schools, school districts and public libraries may apply individually or as part of a consortium.

Since the program began in 1998,
Texas Public Libraries
have received a total of
\$22,216,963.96
in E-rate support to purchase
Telecommunications and Internet Access