



# Funding IT Innovation

Securing and Maximizing Federal  
Funding Opportunities



Live Oak  
Solutions Inc.

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**Large School District  
Resources for Small  
School Districts and  
Independent Schools**



# About Us

We help fill gaps in grant writing, technology planning, procurement, and staff development.

Clients rely on Live Oak to surface funding opportunities, secure funding, and assist in the procurement process to maximize value.



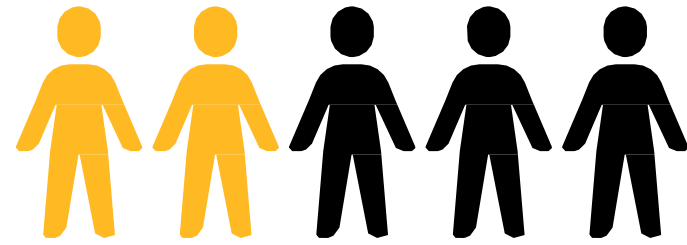
# More About Us

We help schools navigate E-Rate, Emergency Connectivity Fund, ESSER, and other funding opportunities including the IIJA.

Since surplus funding often generates surplus work, PMP® credentialed project management services are available to clients.

# The Problem

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Growing complexity in federal funding  
More funding opportunities and more procedures to follow to secure funding

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5 %

of ESSER III funding must be reserved for evidence-based activities tied to learning loss

What does that actually mean?

# Our Solution

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## Identify Needs

What are your instructional and operational needs?



## Secure Useful Funding

Consider grant restrictions  
Consider general fund impact  
Consider needs



## Maximize Value

Strategize to meet eligibility restrictions, funding deadlines, and the need for procurement assistance to assure compliance.



# Leverage E-Rate

The Federal Communications Commission's E-Rate program supports connectivity.

- Discount Rate is based on poverty rate.
- Up to 90% subsidy on direct internet access (Cat 1)
- Up to 85% on network infrastructure equipment, licensing and maintenance (Cat 2)
- Category 2 District budget is \$167 per student
- 5-year budget cycle



# E-Rate Eligible Services

Focus on internet connectivity, not telecommunications

## **CATEGORY 1**

- Data transmission services
- Internet access
- Voice services are **NO LONGER** eligible

Internet  
Connectivity  
Throughout  
the District

## **CATEGORY TWO**

- Internal connections (Network switches, WAPS)
- Managed internal broadband services
- Basic maintenance of internal connections

# FCC Clarifies MIBS versus BMIC

## Category 2

## The Reason for E-Rate Consultants

### Eligible Broadband Internal Connections

- Antennas, connectors, and related components used for internal broadband connections
- Cabling
- Caching
- Firewall services and firewall components separate from basic firewall protection provided as a standard component of a vendor's Internet access service
- Racks
- Routers
- Switches
- Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS)/Battery Backup
- Access points used in a local area network (LAN) or wireless local area network (WLAN) environment (such as wireless access points)
- Wireless controller systems
- Software supporting the components on this list used to distribute high-speed broadband throughout school buildings and libraries (applicants should request software in the same category as the associated service being obtained or installed)

*Notes:* (1) Functionalities listed above that can be virtualized in the cloud, and equipment that combines eligible functionalities, like routing and switching, are also eligible.

(2) A manufacturer's multi-year warranty for a period up to three years that is provided as an integral part of an eligible component, without a separately identifiable cost, may be included in the cost of the component.

(3) Caching is defined as a method that stores recently accessed information. Caching stores information locally so that the information is accessible more quickly than if transmitted across a network from a distance. A caching service or equipment that provides caching, including servers necessary for the provision of caching, is eligible for funding.

### Eligible Managed Internal Broadband Services

- Services provided by a third party for the operation, management, and monitoring of eligible broadband internal connections are eligible managed internal broadband services (e.g., managed Wi-Fi).
- E-Rate support is limited to eligible expenses or portions of expenses that directly support and are necessary for the broadband connectivity within schools and libraries. Eligible expenses include the management and operation of the LAN/WLAN, including installation, activation, and initial configuration of eligible components and on-site training on the use of eligible equipment.
- In some eligible managed internal broadband services models, the third-party manager owns and installs the equipment and school and library applicants lease the equipment as part of the managed services contract. In other cases, the school or library may own the equipment, but have a third party manage the equipment for it.

### Basic Maintenance of Eligible Broadband Internal Connections

E-Rate support is available for basic maintenance and technical support appropriate to maintain reliable operation when provided for eligible broadband internal connections.

The following basic maintenance services are eligible:

- Repair and upkeep of eligible hardware
- Wire and cable maintenance
- Configuration changes
- Basic technical support including online and telephone-based technical support
- Software upgrades and patches including bug fixes and security patches

<https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DA-19-1249A1.pdf>

# The Reason for E-Rate Consultants

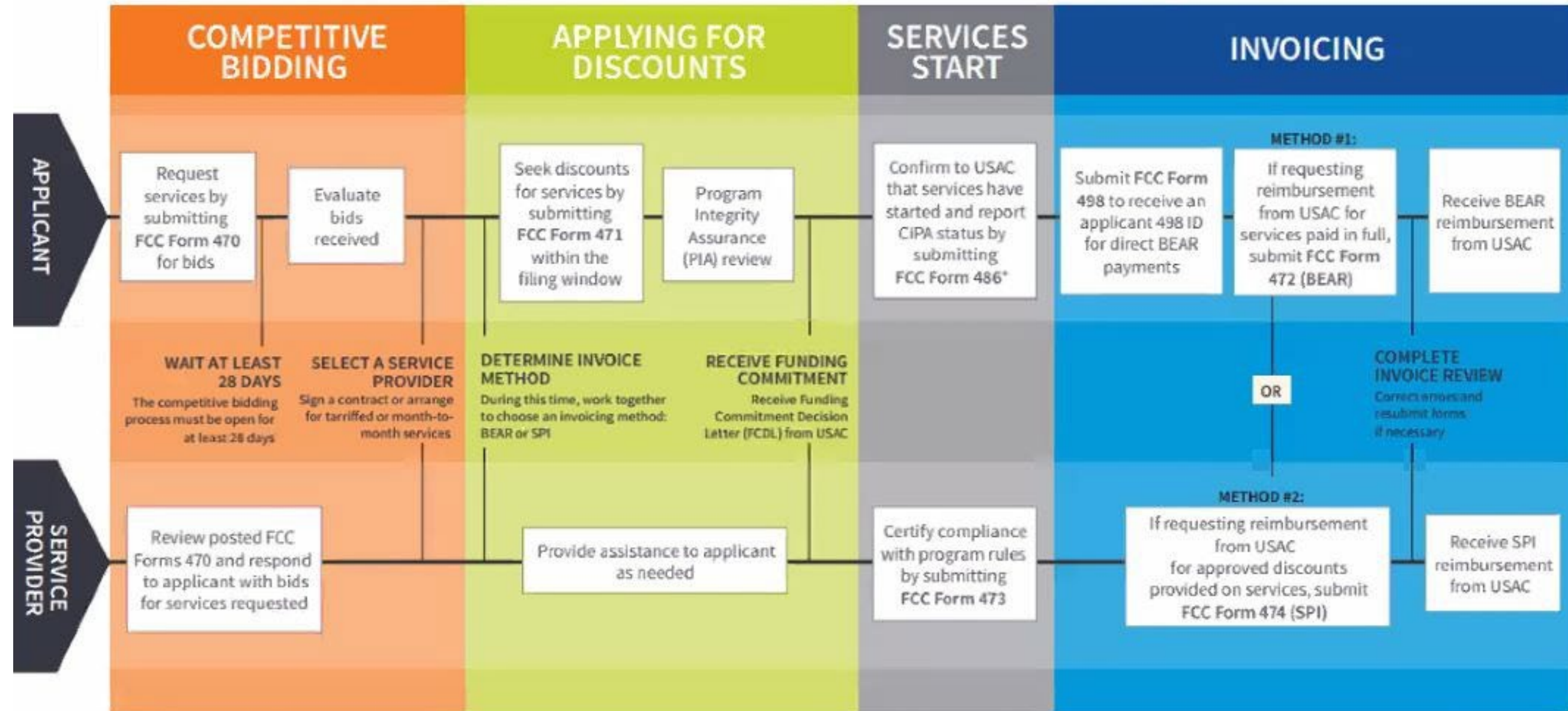


## Schools and Libraries (E-rate) Program APPLICATION PROCESS

### BEFORE YOU BEGIN:

**APPLICANTS:** Applicants must first have an entity number and an E-rate Productivity Center (EPC) account.

**SERVICE PROVIDERS:** Service providers must first obtain a Service Provider Identification Number (SPIN /service provider 498 ID) by submitting FCC Form 498.



# E-Rate Works

## 28,925 Contracts Awarded for \$3.4 Billion/Year Average of 83,994 proposals received each year

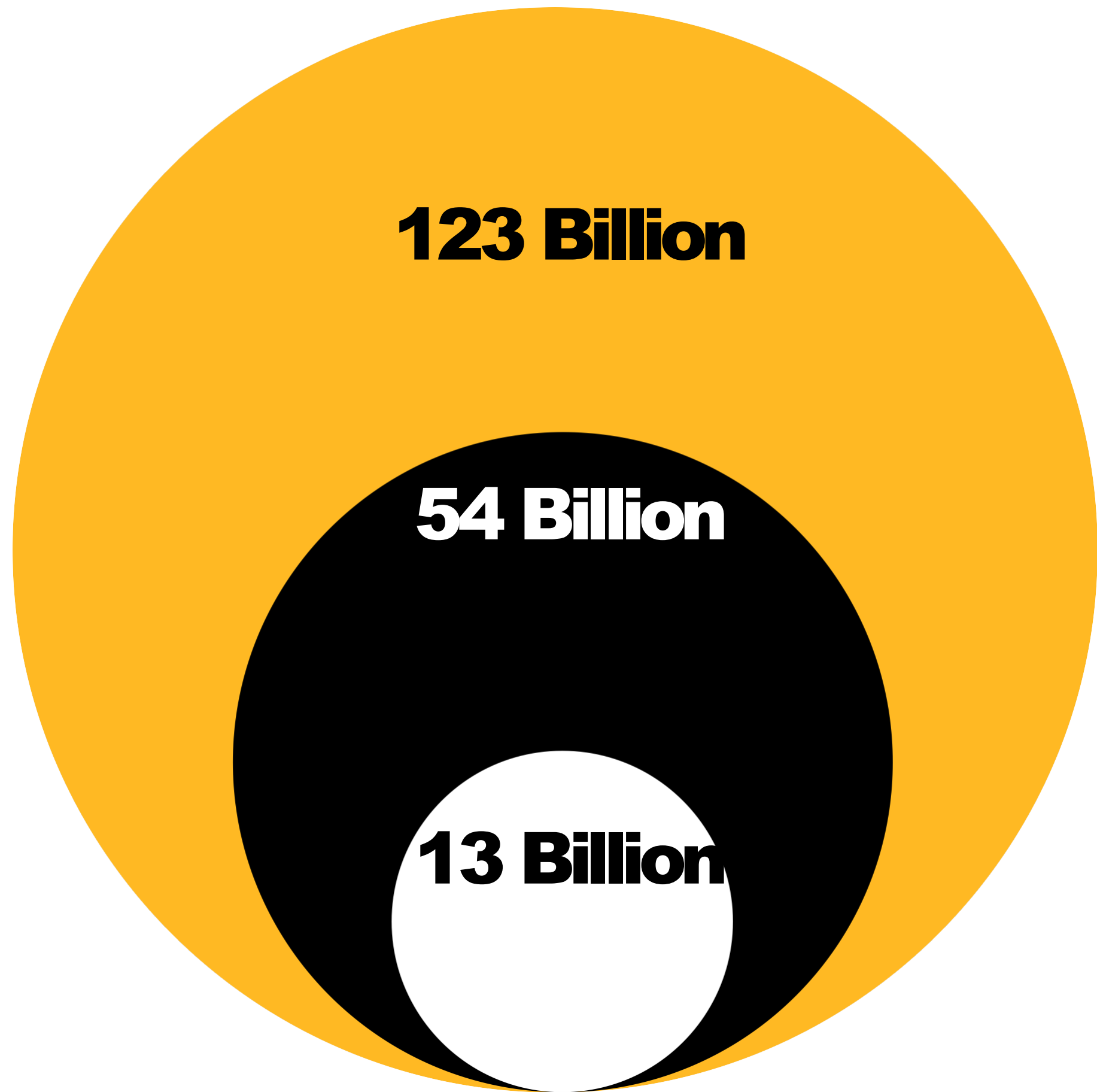




# The K-12 Cybersecurity Act of 2021 may change how you use E-Rate

Legislation mandates the director of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Agency (CISA) to conduct a study of specific risks impacting K-12 institutions and draft recommendations for cybersecurity guidelines.

# Elementary & Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund



■ ARP/ ESSER III  
**123 BILLION**

■ CRRSA/ ESSER II  
**54.3 BILLION**

■ CARES/ ESSER I  
**13.2 BILLION**

# ESSER 1 ( CARES )



Obligation Deadline -  
September 2022

■ How many schools shifted emergency general fund expenditures onto ESSER I once funding was available?

- Summer learning
- Providing mental health services
- Educational technology including hardware and software
- Preparedness and continuity of services
- Activities to address the unique needs of various subgroups including students with disabilities, English language learners, as well as students experiencing homeless, low income, or in foster care.

# ESSER II (CRRSA)

Obligation Deadline -  
September 2023

- Summer learning
- Providing mental health services
- Educational technology including hardware and software
- Preparedness and continuity of services
- Activities to address the unique needs of various subgroups including students with disabilities, English language learners, as well as students experiencing homeless, low income, or in foster care.
- Activities to address "learning loss"
- Preparing schools for reopening to in-person instruction
- Projects to improve air quality in school buildings

# ESSER III (ARP)

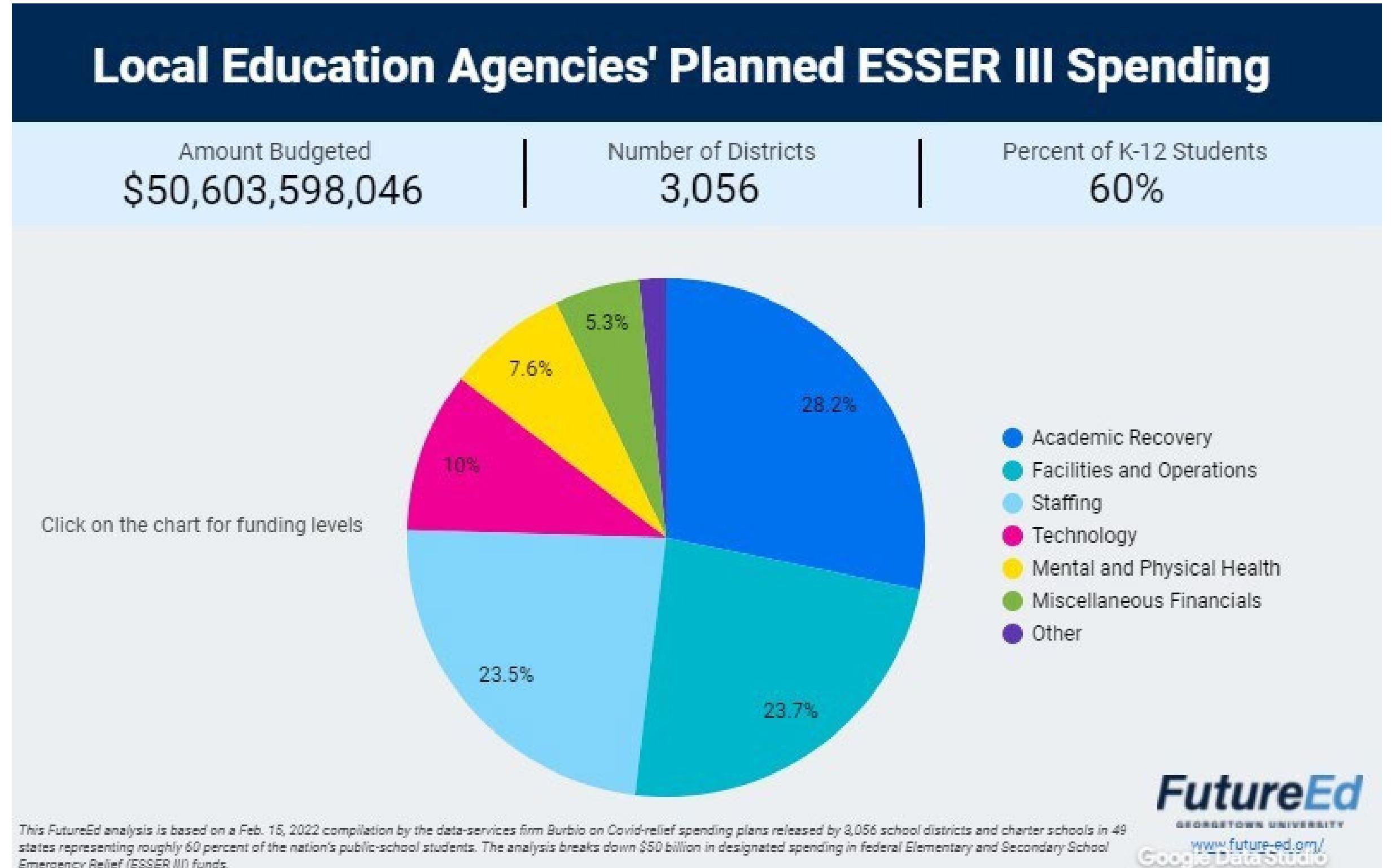
Obligation Deadline -  
September 2024

- Summer learning
- Providing mental health services
- Educational technology including hardware and software
- Preparedness and continuity of services
- Activities to address the unique needs of various subgroups including students with disabilities, English language learners, as well as students experiencing homeless, low income, or in foster care.
- Activities to address "learning loss"
- Preparing schools for reopening to in-person instruction
- Projects to improve air quality in school buildings
- Reserve 5% for evidence based activities tied to learning recovery
- 1% set aside to implement summer enrichment programs

# ESSER III

Unprecedented flow of federal funding with many use cases

FutureEd analysis is based on a Feb. 15, 2022 compilation of ESSER III spending plans released by 3,056 LEA's in 49 states (60% of K-12 Students)



# Cybersecurity?

How do we know it is ESSER eligible?

The US Department of Education ESSER FAQ specifically identifies cybersecurity as an eligible expenditure to support remote learning, hybrid instruction, and the return to in-person learning.

## Frequently Asked Questions

Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Programs  
Governor's Emergency Education Relief Programs



### **A-21. May ESSER and GEER funds be used to improve cybersecurity?**

Yes. If a school, LEA, or State is improving cybersecurity to better meet educational and other needs of students related to preventing, preparing for, or responding to COVID-19, it may use ESSER or GEER funds. For example, if an LEA needs to increase its use of technology, such as for potential temporary shifts to hybrid learning if COVID-19 cases arise, expanded cybersecurity needs to facilitate that activity may also be addressed using ESSER or GEER funds.

# Examples of ESSER Funded Cybersecurity Expenditures



## **1** Equipment

New internet content filter to replace legacy equipment not sufficiently filtering at-home usage

## **3** Design

Consultant services to design a hardened network environment for a safe return to in-person learning

## **2** Software

Endpoint protection software designed to detect, quarantine, and eliminate malicious malware and other dangerous threats

## **4** Support

Increased vendor network management services to support a safe return to in-person learning

# Sample Eligible Technology Enhancements



<b>FUNDING OPTIONS</b>	<b>ESSER I</b>	<b>ESSER II</b>	<b>ESSER III</b>	<b>ERATE</b>	<b>ECF/ACP</b>
New WAPS / Switches	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Tablets / Laptops	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Hotspots / Home Internet	✓	✓	✓		✓ ✓
Cybersecurity Upgrades	✓	✓	✓		

# Emergency Connectivity Fund



■ \$7.17 Billion  
Allocated to the  
FCC to support  
remote learning  
through device  
and at-home  
internet  
expenditures

■ \$4.54 Billion  
Committed  
funding as of  
February 23rd  
9.9 million  
devices & 4.9  
million internet  
connections

■ \$1 Billion  
Approximate  
amount projected  
to be remaining  
after all  
applications have  
been processed

# Recent ECF Updates

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## Awarded Internet Service

is eligible for 12-month service period from date of approval. Original deadline was June 30, 2022

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## Filing Window for Reimbursement

is 60 days after receiving product or change in FCDL with the exception of Wave 1 and Wave 2 applicants

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## ECF Payment Audits

are being managed by Censeo Consulting Group on behalf of the FCC for adherence to program requirements.

\*To date there have been no specific requests for information





## Affordable Connectivity Program

A long-term, \$14 billion program providing \$30 per month toward internet service for eligible households



Schools are messengers for ACP.

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## Who Is Eligible for the Affordable Connectivity Program?

- Has an income that is at or below 200% of the federal poverty guidelines
- Participates in certain assistance programs, such as SNAP, Medicaid, Federal Public Housing Assistance, SSI, WIC, or Lifeline
- Participates in Tribal specific programs, such as Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance, Tribal TANF, or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations
- Is approved to receive benefits under the free and reduced-price school lunch program or the school breakfast program, including through the USDA Community Eligibility Provision in the 2019-2020, 2020-2021, or 2021-2022 school year
- Received a Federal Pell Grant during the current award year
- Meets the eligibility criteria for a participating provider's existing low-income program



# Current ACP Requests

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## Allow Direct Migration

from Emergency Connectivity Funder internet service to associated Affordable Connectivity Program plan

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## Schools as Intermediaries

should be allowable to better serve neediest families

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# The Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act

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Included in the \$1.2 Trillion Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act is over \$65 Billion to states, local governments, community organizations, and other entities for digital inclusion activities.

# Digital Equity Act

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## THE DIGITAL EQUITY ACT



### **PROVIDES DIGITAL SKILLS TRAINING**

AND EDUCATION  
TO LOW-INCOME  
POPULATIONS

### **IMPROVES ONLINE ACCESSIBILITY**

OF SOCIAL SERVICES  
FOR INDIVIDUALS  
WITH DISABILITIES

### **EMPOWERS RURAL COMMUNITIES**

TO MEASURE AND  
ADDRESS THEIR OWN  
BROADBAND NEEDS

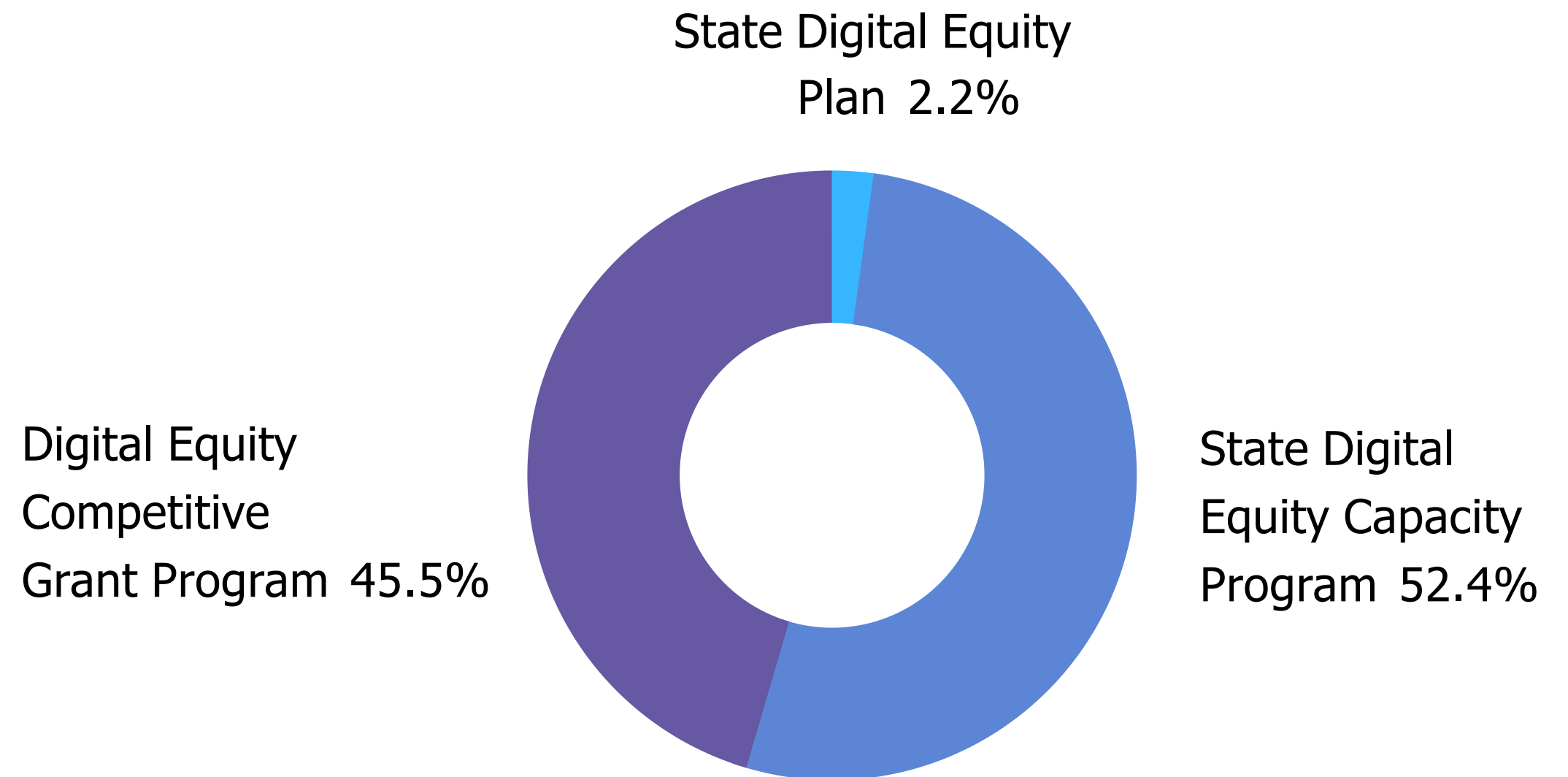


# Digital Equity Act

## Formula and Grant Driven

- \$60 Million for state planning grants
- \$1.44 Billion for state plan implementation
- \$1.25 Billion in competitive grants

## DIGITAL EQUITY ACT



# Digital Equity Competitive Grant Program

\$1.25 billion to promote digital inclusion through:



1

## Digital Literacy

Training programs that cover basic and advanced digital skills

2

## Workforce Development

for employees training, development opportunities, and continuing education programs to maximize job success and career pathways

3

## Equipment

Free or low-cost equipment for covered populations \*low income household, rural area, older adults, veterans, racial or ethnic minorities, individuals with disabilities, language barriers, or are incarcerated.

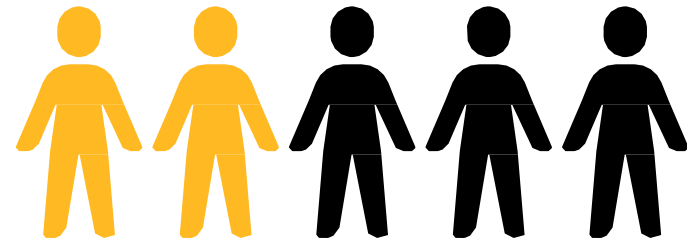
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## Public Access

Constructing, upgrading, or expanding public access computing centers

# Safe Routes To School Non-Tech Example

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The IIJA supports and expands Safe Routes to School  
SRTS is expanded to explicitly include High Schools (i.e. K-12th grade)  
Tribal agencies are explicitly included as eligible recipients

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## 60%

funding increase to \$1.44 billion a year for the  
Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside program

Schools, school districts, a local education agency and non-profit  
entities are eligible for funding, in addition to local and regional  
governmental agencies.



# Contact Us

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Questions?

