HOW POWER FITS INTO YOUR E-RATE PROJECT

BACKGROUND
ON E-RATE

Throughout the past few years, schools and libraries have become information hubs where millions of students and patrons need multiple, readily-available technologies at their fingertips. That's why the E-rate program was created: so all students and patrons across the U.S. can have access to digital, electronic curricula and resources.

The E-rate program has been providing discounted Internet access, connections, and telecommunications to eligible institutions since 1997. In 2014, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) adopted the first and second E-rate Modernization Orders to update the program.

Under the E-rate program, schools and libraries apply for funding and discounts that help provide telecommunications services, internet access, internal connections, and basic maintenance of those internal connections.

WHO'S ELIGIBLE?

E-RATE IS DESIGNED FOR US SCHOOLS AND LIBRARIES AND IS BASED ON ECONOMIC NEED.

ELIGIBLE SCHOOLS

Must meet the definition of an elementary or secondary school as defined by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 ((20 U.S.C. Section 7801(18) and (38)).

ELIGIBLE LIBRARIES

1: Must meet the statuary definition of library or library consortium that is defined by the 1996 Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) (Pub. L. 104-208).

2: Be eligible for state library administrative agency assistance under this Act.

STEPS FOR FUNDING

1 First, you need to determine if you're eligible for E-rate funding. Check out USAC's website **http://www.usac.org** to see if you qualify.

2 Next, begin the application process with a competitive bidding process for your requested products(s) and/or service(s).

3 Afterwards, select your preferred, most-effective vendor(s).

4 Then, submit an application to USAC for approval.

5 Lastly, USAC issues funding commitments to eligible applicants—and if you're approved, you can get the funding you applied for!

POWER AND
SCHOOLS

EVERY SCHOOL NEEDS POWER PROTECTION AND BACKUP

Remember the days when schools were filled with chalkboards, hardbound encyclopedias and rotary phones? Today, students use the Internet for class assignments, research and collaborating on reports. This type of digital learning requires the right equipment and reliable power, to support it.

Battery backup powers IT equipment, minimizes the downtime during minor power fluctuations and prevents damage that occurs during complete power failures. By using UPS systems, schools ensure the full availability of broadband and telecommunication networks.

That's why power protection has become an integral part of equipping schools with uninterrupted access to their digital technology and networks that deliver information and electronic curriculum.

HOW
POWER
FITS

ELIGIBLE E-RATE SERVICES ARE
DIVIDED INTO TWO CATEGORIES

CATEGORY 1

Category One addresses data transmission services, Internet access, and voice services.

CATEGORY 2

Category Two concentrates on funding for internal connections, managed internal connections, and basic maintenance of internal connections.

Battery backup and UPS systems fit into Category Two: Internal Connections because they're a data protection component of the information delivery systems E-rate is intended to fund. For a useful overview of E-rate eligible services, visit: **http://www.usac.org.**
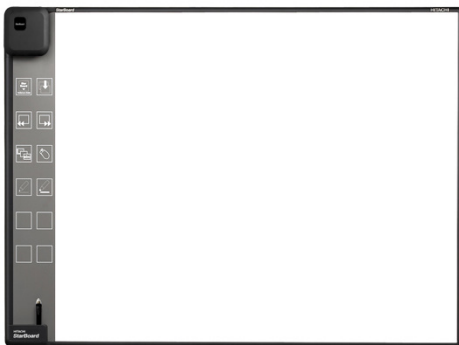
It is important to remember that components under Category Two are eligible only if they are considered an essential element in the transmission of information within a school or library.

Because of this definition, it is important to understand what will be connected to the UPS system, the estimated maximum and typical load of the connected equipment, and other important details on the devices that will be used to support your telecommunications or broadband network.

On October 22, 2013, UPS systems became eligible for E-rate funding as a data protection component.

WHERE **POWER** FITS

Today's schools and libraries require all types of equipment for digital learning. Power protection defends against downtime and safeguards them from damage and data loss.
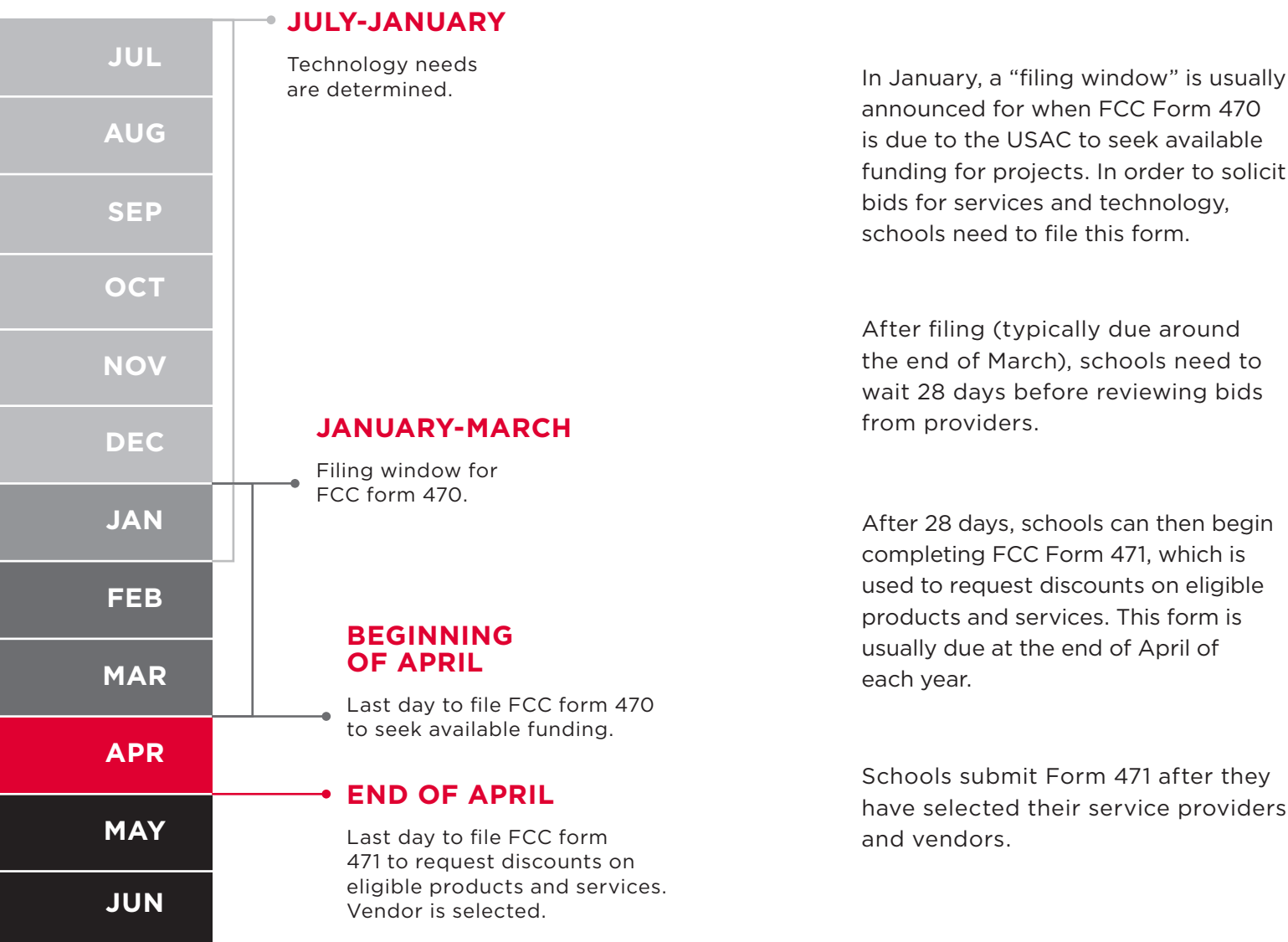
CLASSROOM TECHNOLOGY

WORKSTATIONS

NETWORK EQUIPMENT

SERVERS

E-RATE TIMING
GUIDELINES

HERE'S WHAT THE TYPICAL APPLICATION PROCESS LOOKS LIKE:

JUL	
AUG	
SEP	
OCT	
NOV	
DEC	
JAN	
FEB	
MAR	
APR	
MAY	
JUN	

JULY-JANUARY

Technology needs are determined.

JANUARY-MARCH

Filing window for FCC form 470.

BEGINNING OF APRIL

Last day to file FCC form 470 to seek available funding.

END OF APRIL

Last day to file FCC form 471 to request discounts on eligible products and services. Vendor is selected.

In January, a "filing window" is usually announced for when FCC Form 470 is due to the USAC to seek available funding for projects. In order to solicit bids for services and technology, schools need to file this form.

After filing (typically due around the end of March), schools need to wait 28 days before reviewing bids from providers.

After 28 days, schools can then begin completing FCC Form 471, which is used to request discounts on eligible products and services. This form is usually due at the end of April of each year.

Schools submit Form 471 after they have selected their service providers and vendors.

BEST
PRACTICES

When applying for E-rate funding, schools and libraries need to consider timing and the most efficient ways of navigating the application process. Below are some tips and best practices to keep in mind:

USE THE USAC AS A RESOURCE

If any questions come up during the application process, the USAC can provide answers when given time to do so. USAC representatives can also ensure applications are filled out correctly.

PLAN AHEAD

Networking and technology can be a huge undertaking and requires planning up to three years into the future. It's in your best interest to plan ahead to properly allocate and request funding and prioritize projects.

PROVIDE DETAILS AND BENEFITS

For vendors bidding on E-rate projects, be sure to provide detailed product comparisons and highlight the benefits of the products being offered. Include warranty information and options as these can illustrate lower total cost of ownership over the life cycle of the product(s).

Deadlines can change from year to year, so it is important to keep track of official dates.

Visit **http://www.usac.org/sl/** for official deadlines and updates on the E-rate process.

LOAD

BATT.

MUTE

ESTIMATED RUN TIME

42 Min

Display | Silence Alarm | Control

USB Power

CyberPower

1500PFCLCD

YOUR ULTIMATE ALLY IN POWER

HOW CYBERPOWER CAN HELP

The program allows individual libraries, schools and districts to choose the provider(s) and/or technologies that best fit their needs – as long as they are the most cost-effective options.

With years of experience in the education market and its offering of customized, cost-effective power management products, CyberPower is an ideal fit for E-rate projects that include power.

We're here to help coordinate delivery times, locations, and storage prior to deployment and to assist with installation schedules.

And whether you're a solutions provider or an IT professional, CyberPower is the most responsive, hands-on organization to support your efforts and systems.

CyberPower can assist with the logistics of project planning and implementation to ensure a hassle-free process.

ABOUT US

At CyberPower, we power our channel partners and customers with high quality power protection and management products. A global leader in power protection, we are driven to provide high quality engineering, efficient manufacturing processes, and unmatched customer value.

CyberPower serves customers in enterprise, corporate, government, education, and small office/home office environments. Connect with us for more information to see how we can help customize or help with your E-rate project.

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