October 14, 2026

FCC Review of E-Rate Scope and Administration



TREND AT A GLANCE

On June 26, 2026, the FCC released a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking addressing E-Rate-funded networks and services. The proceeding asks for comment on potential changes; it does not itself establish final program rules.

WHY IT MATTERS FOR RESELLERS

- Reseller messaging should clearly distinguish proposals from adopted requirements.
- Current projects should continue to follow the rules and Eligible Services List applicable to the funding year.
- Compliance-focused positioning remains important when connecting a recommendation to educational use and eligible services.

RESELLER ACTIONS

- Brief customer-facing teams on what is proposed versus what is currently required.
- Avoid presenting possible policy changes as settled outcomes.
- Document how solutions map to customer needs and current eligibility rules.

WHAT TO WATCH

- FCC action in WC Dockets 26-133, 13-184, 21-93, and 21-455.
- The reply-comment deadline of November 12, 2026.
- Any final decisions affecting program scope, consultant oversight, integrity measures, or administration.

SUGGESTED RESELLER TALK TRACK

Opportunity: "The new competitive-bidding portal gives prepared resellers a timely opportunity to differentiate as trusted E-Rate partners—not simply product providers.

Proof point: Beginning with Funding Year 2028, service providers will submit bids through the USAC-managed portal, and applicants will upload bid-evaluation, vendor-selection, and contract documentation after choosing a provider. This creates a clear need for disciplined bid preparation, documented handoffs, and accurate records across the sales cycle.

Reseller benefit: Teams that prepare early can respond more consistently, reduce avoidable submission issues, and make the buying process easier for schools and libraries. A repeatable workflow for portal access, bid development, compliance review, approvals, deadlines, and record retention also helps sellers spend less time resolving process gaps and more time advancing qualified opportunities.

How we help: We can help your organization turn readiness into a stronger market position: align each response to the customer's stated Form 470 and RFP requirements, build confidence through clear documentation, and create a scalable process your team can use across future E-Rate pursuits.

The result: a smoother customer experience, stronger reseller differentiation, and a more credible foundation for long-term education-market growth."

OFFICIAL REFERENCES

- **FCC: OMB Approval of E-Rate Bidding Portal and Modernization Rules — released September 24, 2026.**
- **FCC 26-30: Report and Order — adopted April 30 and released May 1, 2026.**
- **USAC: E-Rate Competitive Bidding — official applicant-process guidance.**

Important: Use the rules and Eligible Services List applicable to the funding year. Proposed rules are n