

E-Rate's Impact on Mississippi

What is E-Rate?

E-Rate is a federal program that helps schools and public libraries pay for internet service, Wi-Fi, and the equipment needed to stay connected.

What does E-Rate mean for Mississippi?

\$95.9 million

Mississippi schools and libraries have about \$95.9 million in potential E-Rate budget available during the 2026–2030 funding cycle.

\$10.8 million

About \$10.8 million of that potential budget is available to Mississippi public libraries.

\$2.10 million

Mississippi public libraries have already received about \$2.10 million in E-Rate funding commitments for FY2026.

Why does this matter?

Reliable internet at the public library helps Mississippians:

- Search and apply for jobs
- Complete job and workforce training
- Use government and social services
- Access health and telehealth resources
- Complete schoolwork and continue their education
- Learn computer and digital skills
- Use reliable internet when they may not have it at home

For many Mississippi communities, especially rural areas, the public library is a dependable place to get online. Library staff is also there to help people use technology and find the online services they need.

What is happening now?

The FCC is reviewing the future of the E-Rate program.

The deadline to submit comments to the FCC is October 13, 2026.

Learn More or Take Part

Learn more about the FCC review, why E-Rate matters to Mississippi, and how you can submit a comment:

<https://www.mlc.lib.ms.us/fcc-review-of-e-rate/>