

Questions Log: Eligible Services List

Q: Can a server be funded if it has dual purpose..ex. DHCP & Active Directory?

A: It can, yes the difficulty is when you buy server ahead of time it is hard to know how you use the server; if you know ahead of time then you can back out the cost of those things that are not eligible.

Q: We get our T-1 lines from an ETP. However, we pay our ESC for Internet Access. They are providing the upstream connection. Do we need to cost allocate this access? If the answer is yes, what kind of documentation do we need to justify the cost allocation?

A: No, An ETP is providing the bandwidth which is in the telecommunications category.

Q: What about cell phones for maintenance and ground workers?

A: Cell phones for maintenance is perfect. They can use it while on their route, but should turn it in at the end of the day. They must only use it for educational purposes. Ground workers may have a hard time proving they use a cell phone for educational purposes.

Q: I thought that H.323 videoconferencing was eligible in this category?

A: H.323 is eligible but data is not eligible. If it is IP traffic it is eligible if data then that part it is not eligible

Q: What about cell phones for bus drivers.

A: Yes, similar to answer about maintenance workers.

Q: Has anyone ever been asked to provide proof of cost allocated utilization of Internet Access. For instance, if you're using 10% of your "Internet Access" for video or files, and you cost allocate your service, do you have to have records that demonstrate that percentage?

A: I do not know of any that have been asked for that detailed information; you will have to have a document or record that shows that 10% you have to be convincing when discuss with PIA.

Q: If someone is attending this webinar, your voice is arriving via http. Is it eligible? ;-) How does this fit in?

A: It is eligible. Voice webinars are all eligible. It is telecommunications. If it is graphic, it may go under either category.

Q: Google provides free email for k-12 institutions, but they charge for email filtering and archiving. Is this an eligible service?

A: No it is not eligible; no filtering or archiving allowed.

Q: Would a multi-district NIF, such as a special education cooperative, be eligible for Priority 1 services, and if so, how would the discount be calculated?

A: If each entity is eligible yes, you can file together under one application. You'd file a consortium application.

Q: Is there a time period(i.e. 3-5+ years) after which an e-rate funded switch could be moved to a NIF such as a maintenance facility if it is no longer needed at the school it was purchased for?

A: Absolutely, After 3 years...at end of the three years can move to another eligible entity.

Q: Is a server for student formation system be eligible for e-rate ex. RSCCC?

A: No, that is your software that stores student info, and that is not eligible.

Q: We have video conferencing equipment that is over 3 years old. Can we move the equipment to another campus that is eligible (90%) now, but was not eligible at the time of purchase.

A: Absolutely,

Q: What are some different ways that you can liquidate old Erate equipment?

A: USAC's recommendation is that you transfer it to an eligible location. You may liquidate equipment by calling a reclamation company, but it is not suggested you put it in a dumpster. Be sure to keep an accurate inventory record of all transfers, etc.

Q: I understand what you said about password-protected web pages being eligible under some conditions. We do not pay for web hosting. Is it okay that our teachers can access the grade book from home, using their own ISPs to connect our gradebook server? The traffic passes through our web server, but it is not funded by E-Rate.

A: If they are accessing your interface via a web access interface, you should be fine.

Q: If the air cards did go through, how would we guarantee CIPA compliance? I too hope it doesn't go through.

A: I have no idea. That's a big discussion that's going on right now.

Q: Is a service that includes video streaming and video hosting eligible? Password protected or not?

A: The video stream is IP traffic to me; That service is eligible. Video hosting server is not eligible.

Q: Can e-rate funded switches older than 3 or 5 years be traded in for a discount on new hardware, when not part of an e-rate funded purchase?

A: If it does not involve E-Rate, there's no reason to use E-Rate rules in this purchase.

Q: What is the criteria again or the Tennessee test?

A: Many criteria: never own equipment, vendor must maintain equipment. More in manual and on the USAC website.. Came from Tennessee order. There are 7 or 8 qualifiers about on premise/on location device for P1.

Q: Cathey - thanks to you and your staff for these sessions as they have been very beneficial giving great details to the erate process. I appreciate all your support!

A: Thank you very much for your kind words.

Q: In Year 11, PIA reduced a particular model of router we submitted to 72% eligible. I have never seen this granularity in the ESL. How do we find out the % of eligibility for future submissions of partially eligible components, or can we?

A: That's a gray area - it is hard to be accurate about this. If you have documentation to prove the eligibility, and PIA disagrees, you may appeal their decision. Work out something with PIA that works for both parties. You may then go to USAC and then to FCC.

Q: If students bring their own iPhones or other Internet capable phones to school, are we mandated by law to filter their access to the Internet.

A: Well according to E-Rate and Child protection rules the answer is yes for internet access. There is more discussion going on with this issue.

Q: Thank you for all webinars. They're great!

A: You are welcome, thank you for attending.

Q: Our students are allowed to have their phones at school, but are not allowed to have them turned on during school. (Of course, they do anyway.) Does the fact that our policy says they are not allowed cover us as far as CIPA is concerned?

A: If students sign an AUP and they are made aware of your policy, then I think you have done a great job of protecting them.

Q: Utilizing a web hosted portal (stoneware) for teachers and students to access our network from home and school - is this eligible?

A: Depends on whether this portal allows you to go to another software at the district. More on this to come.....

Q: Do you need to designate whether a switch will be used for a access to the Internet or VOIP?

A: Absolutely not. A switch is eligible unless one of the ports going to an ineligible user.

Q: Has there been further discussions or decisions on web filter maintenance being eligible? in the 2010/2011 year

A: Not to our knowledge.