



Indiana Department of Education

Dr. Katie Jenner, Secretary of Education

To: Superintendents, School Business Officials, and School Technology Leaders

From: Brad Hagg, Director of Educational Technology

Date: January 6, 2023

Subject: Indiana State Match for Fiber Construction

The Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) is participating in the E-Rate Match Program for special construction projects. This is available to any Indiana public school for fiscal year (FY) 2023 (July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024) and will increase the discount rate for special construction charges for high-speed broadband that meets the FCC's long-term connectivity targets up to an additional 10% to match the state funding on a one-to-one dollar basis.

In accordance with the parameters established by E-Rate, Indiana has set aside a portion of funding already earmarked for school connectivity to provide matching funds for this program. For the purposes of the matching program, “special construction” for E-Rate refers to the upfront, non-recurring costs associated with the installation of new fiber to or between eligible entities.

Schools interested in participating will need to complete a short application. Applicants must also indicate on their FCC Form 471 (see below for instructions) that the special construction portion of the project may qualify for state matching funds. If, for any reason, state matching funds are not available, the application, without the matching funds, will still be processed and evaluated by USAC.

In the event qualified applications exceed the available funds, schools in rural and underserved areas will receive priority, followed by schools with the highest discount rates. If further prioritization is needed, an applicant’s raw free and reduced lunch rate from the FY 2023 E-Rate application will be used.

In addition to carefully following all of the E-Rate procurement processes, applicants will need to take two important steps to be eligible for the matching funds.

Step 1: Signaling your interest in the match when you file your FCC Form 471

When preparing the FCC Form 471, please complete the following steps in order to signal interest in the match.

1. If indicating that the FCC Form 471 includes special construction, the applicant should be prompted with the question "Is there a state or tribal match available for your E-Rate special construction funding request?" Please be sure to select “Yes.”



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2. Applicants will then be asked to **specify the state match amount requested** (this will be 10% of the total special construction cost for districts at 80% or below discount rates, or 5% of the total special construction cost for districts at 90% discount).
3. Applicants will also be asked to specify a source document or website for the matching fund.

Please use this link:

<https://www.usac.org/E-Rate/applicant-process/before-you-begin/fiber-summary-overview/additional-discount-to-match-state-tribal-funding-for-special-construction/#IN>.

Following this process, it is essential to ensure that funding is able to be secured, if the matching fund does get approved. If for any reason the fund is rejected, there will be no penalties for including the state match information.

Step 2: Completing the Application from IDOE

Applications ([available here](#)) to participate must be received by 11:59 p.m. on Friday, March 31. Applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application in writing by Friday, April 14. All awards are conditional on the receipt of the federal match and availability of state funds. The funds for successful award applications will be distributed to the schools via a contract with the state. This program is available to any public school in Indiana meeting the E-Rate criteria for the special construction program. Any questions about the state matching program should be sent to Brad Hagg, Director of Educational Technology, at bhagg@doe.in.gov.