



Federal Communications Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Office of Native Affairs and Policy

**From:** Native <Native@fcc.gov>

**Sent:** Thursday, January 11, 2024 3:17 PM

**Subject:** FCC Seeking Comment on Addressing the Homework Gap Through the E-Rate Program

Greetings from the Federal Communications Commission.

On November 8, 2023, the Commission released a [Notice of Proposed Rulemaking](#) (NPRM) seeking comment on its proposal to permit eligible schools and libraries to receive support through the [E-Rate program](#) for the off-premises use of Wi-Fi hotspots and wireless internet services to address the “Homework Gap” (i.e., students unable to fully participate in educational opportunities because they lack broadband connectivity in their homes). The deadlines to submit comments and reply comments for the NPRM are January 16, 2024 and January 29, 2024, respectively.

The NPRM was released as the Commission prepares for the sunset of the Emergency Connectivity Fund program on June 30, 2024. In 2021, Congress created the Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF), which allowed the Commission to create the nation’s first ever federal program designed to address the homework gap during the COVID-19 pandemic by providing funding for connected devices, Wi-Fi hotspot devices, broadband connections, and other eligible equipment and services for students, school staff, and library patrons for use at locations that include locations outside of their schools or libraries. Building on its experience with the ECF program, the Commission seeks comment on its proposal to address the ongoing remote learning needs of students, school staff, and library patrons through the continuation of funding for the off-premises use of Wi-Fi hotspots and services through the E-Rate program.

If you would like to file comments, you may file them using the Commission’s Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS), <https://www.fcc.gov/ecfs/filings/standard> under proceeding WC Docket No. 21-31, or email [native@fcc.gov](mailto:native@fcc.gov).

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