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## USAC's Schools and Libraries News Brief January 6, 2006

### Funding Year 2005 Waves

USAC will release Wave 29 funding commitment letters January 10. As of January 6, Funding Year 2005 commitments total over \$1.16 billion. See [Automated Search of Commitments](#) for more information.

### Alternative Discount Mechanism

The primary measure for determining discounts is the percentage of students eligible for free and reduced lunches under the National School Lunch Program (NSLP). Schools also have the option to use [Alternative Discount Mechanisms](#) to determine NSLP eligibility. Alternatives include surveys and existing sources, and may be helpful for schools that do not participate in NSLP or whose eligible students are not included in the state participation numbers reported each year. In all cases, applicants must maintain documentation supporting their eligibility calculations, as USAC may request copies of such documentation.

**Surveys.** If a school chooses to do a survey, certain guidelines apply. The surveys may request only income information or they may also contain information on participation in other programs that are based on household income such as Medicare or Supplementary Security Income.

Data from surveys cannot be more than two years old. For example, the results of a survey done in September 2005 can be used for FY2006 and FY2007 applications, but a new survey must be done for FY2008.

**Matching siblings.** Schools may also match siblings. For example, a school can count a high-school-age sibling who lives in the same household as an elementary student who participates in NSLP.

**Provision 1, 2, and 3 schools.** Schools participating in Provision 1, 2, or 3 of NSLP can use the percentage of students eligible for NSLP acceptable under that provision to determine their discount. However, they must produce the documentation required under that provision if requested.

**Combination of sources.** Schools may also use a combination of sources (income survey, participation in income-based programs, matching siblings, etc.) to support their eligibility calculation. However, they must be able to verify their numbers on a student-by-student basis.

**Unacceptable methods.** Feeder school projections and certain other methods are NOT acceptable mechanisms for determining discounts. See [Alternative Discount Mechanisms](#) for more information.



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### Educational Service Agencies

Educational Service Agencies (ESAs) are regional public multi-service agencies authorized by state statute to develop, manage, and provide services or programs to local educational agencies. In some states, ESAs may be eligible for discounts. See [Eligibility Table for ESAs](#) for more information.

An ESA may function as an applicant, a consultant, a reviewer and approver of Technology Plans, or as a service provider. However, an ESA cannot be an applicant and service provider on the same application. In addition, ESAs acting as service providers can raise potential conflict of interest issues when they also act as consultants, developers, or approvers of Technology Plans. See [Educational Service Agencies](#) for more information.

### FCC Registration Numbers

Every Billed Entity must have an FCC Registration Number (FCC RN). This number is in addition to your USAC entity number and is tied to your Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN) or Employer Identification Number (EIN). You can get an FCC RN online by going to the FCC's [CORES](#) system. See [FCC Registration Numbers](#) for more information.

### Tip: FY2006 Paper Form 470 Data Entry Deadline Approaching

If you are filing your FY2006 Form 470 on paper, make sure that USAC receives it by **January 13** so

that we can contact you if we discover any problems during data entry. **January 19** is the last possible day to POST a Form 470.

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