

E-Rate Fall Training: EPC Administrative Window

2024 Program Participant Webinar October 24, 2024



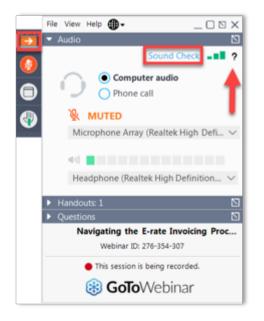
Housekeeping: General

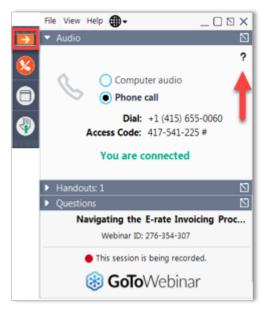
- To accommodate all attendees, real-time closed captions will be present during this presentation. We apologize in advance for any transcription errors or distractions.
- Audio is available through your computer's speakers.
- The audience will remain on mute.
- Use the Questions box to ask questions at any time.
- You can download the slide deck from the Handouts section of the webinar panel.
- This webinar will be recorded.



Housekeeping: Troubleshooting

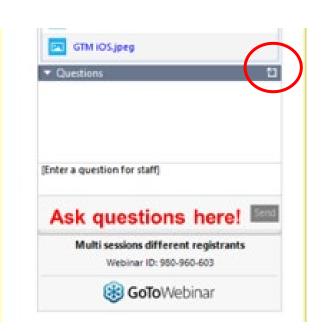
- Use the **Sound Check** link and click the question mark icon for audio help.
- Exit the webinar and click the Check System Requirements link in the event confirmation email to determine whether your computer meets GoToWebinar's requirements.
- If issues persist, call (833) 851-8340 to troubleshoot with GoToWebinar.





Housekeeping: Q&A

- There will be a live Q&A session focused on today's topics.
- Tips for submitting questions:
 - Use the Questions box in your webinar control panel anytime during the presentation.
 - Write in full sentences.
 - Ask one question at a time.
 - Ask questions related to today's webinar content.



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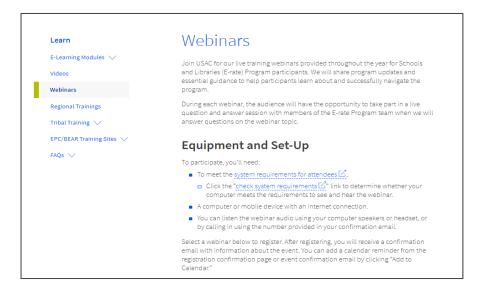


Create a customer service case in the E-Rate Productivity Center (EPC):

- 1. Log in to EPC.
- 2. Select the **Contact Us** link from the upper right menu on the landing page.

E-Rate Fall Training Series 2024

- ✓ E-Rate Program Overview: September 5, 2024
- Pre-Commitment: September 19, 2024
- ✓ Eligible Services: September 24, 2024
- ✓ Wi-Fi Hotspots: October 15, 2024
- Category Two Budgets: October 17, 2024
- ✓ EPC Admin Window: October 24, 2024
- Post-Commitment: October 31, 2024
- Invoicing: November 7, 2024



- These webinars are suitable for all E-Rate experience levels; however, we recommend that those new to the program view these webinars in the order they are presented for the best learning experience.
- These webinars are recommended for both applicants and service providers, especially those new to E-Rate. A webinar tailored towards Service Providers was held in August 2024. Handouts and a recording of this webinar is available on the E-Rate <u>Webinars</u> page.
- Please visit the E-Rate <u>Webinars</u> page for additional information including course descriptions, registration links for future webinars, and access to recordings and handouts from previous webinars.

Meet the Team



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Associate Manager of

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AGENDA

- About the Administrative Window
- What Changes to Make
- Requesting C2 Replacement Budget
- Start Early, End On Time!
- Update Entity Profile
- Indicating Tribal Status
- Account Administrators
- How to Update your EPC Profile During the Admin Window eLearning Module
- What if I Miss the Administrative Window?
- Administrative Window Tips



About the Admin Window

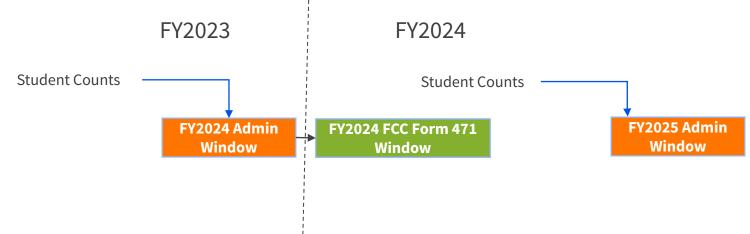
What is the Administrative Window?

- Time when applicants update their EPC entity profile information (e.g., discount rate information) for the FCC Form 471 application filing window.
 - Occurs from October to early January prior to the FCC Form 471 application filing window.
 - Official dates are announced in the E-Rate News Brief.
 - Closes as the FCC Form 471 Application Filing Window opens.
- EPC profiles are locked before the application filing window to prevent changes that impact an entity's discount rate.



Why do We Have the Administrative Window?

- Ensures consistent data for each FCC Form 471 by applicant including:
 - NSLP and full-time student counts (needed to calculate discount rates) for entities tied to a school district, library system, or consortium.
- Allows faster processing of FCC Form 471 application funding requests and reduces PIA review.
- Provides a simple <u>self-service</u> option for updating annual student count or entity information and reducing review time during Program Integrity Assurance (PIA) review.



What Changes to Make?

What are you updating for every Admin Window?

- EPC profile information: Address, email, etc.
- Ensure your account administrator is correct/have an account administrator
- Check user rights levels: Is there someone with full rights who can certify forms?
- Schools update student counts
- Libraries update square footage

What are you updating as needed?

- If any new entities need to be added
- Adding consultants to your account
- Replacing your Category 2 budget

What Changes to Make?

	Schools / School Districts	Libraries and Library Systems	Consortia
Account Administrator is active and current	Х	Х	Х
Account Administrator adds new users and deactivates users that no longer work for the organization	Х	X	X
Account Administrator reviews and updates all user rights by form/transaction	Х	X	X
Account Administrator updates/adds consulting firm (CRN) and consulting firm users and updates rights	Х	X	X
New or closed entities requested via a customer service case	Х	X	X
Update entity relationships (child entities, consortia members)	X	X	X
Update student counts / library square footage; update entity subtypes / add Tribal affiliation	Х	X	
Review/update entity profiles to ensure that are no errors due to missing information	Х	X	
Update entity contact information and FCC registration number	Х	X	Х
Request an increase to your Category 2 budget, if desired	Х	Х	

Requesting C2 Replacement Budget

- If changes occur that could increase the budget calculation of your Library System, Independent School, or Independent Library during a five-year funding cycle, you can request that your Category Two budget be recalculated with higher student counts or square footage if you want. There is no requirement to do this.
- Partial-rights users can **update organization details**, but only users with full rights permissions will be able to request a C2 replacement budget.
- Consortium entities may not request replacement budgets for their members.
- Educational Service Agencies can only request a replacement budget for their own entity – not other associated members.

Start Early, End On Time!

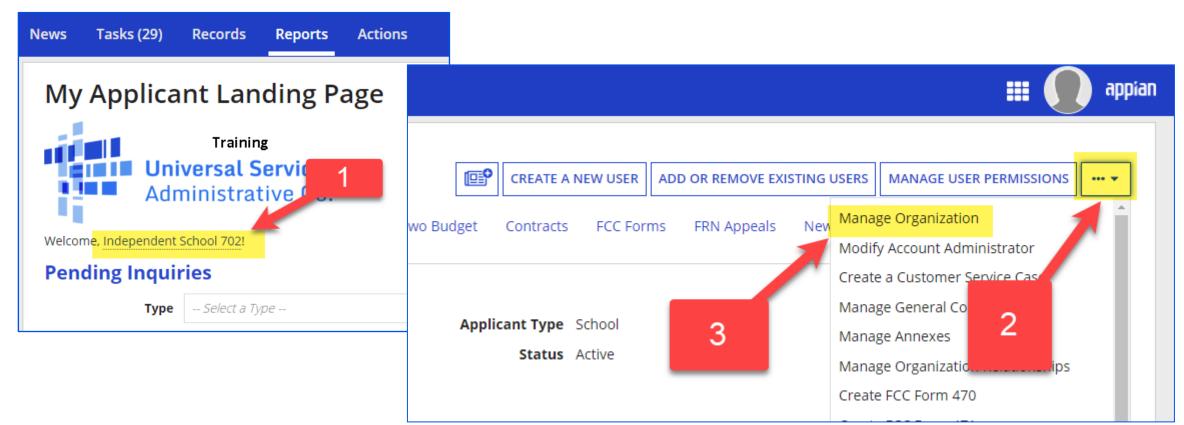
- Administrative window updates
 - 103k schools need latest student counts
 - 21k Account Administrators
 - 2.4k new entities created each year
- Start early to allow enough time to complete all updates!
- Do not wait until the last week of the administrative window to make and request your changes
- If entity profile updates (e.g., student counts, new entities)
 are needed outside of the administrative window,
 this may slow down application review
 and delay your Funding Commitment Decision Letter(s).



Update Entity Profile

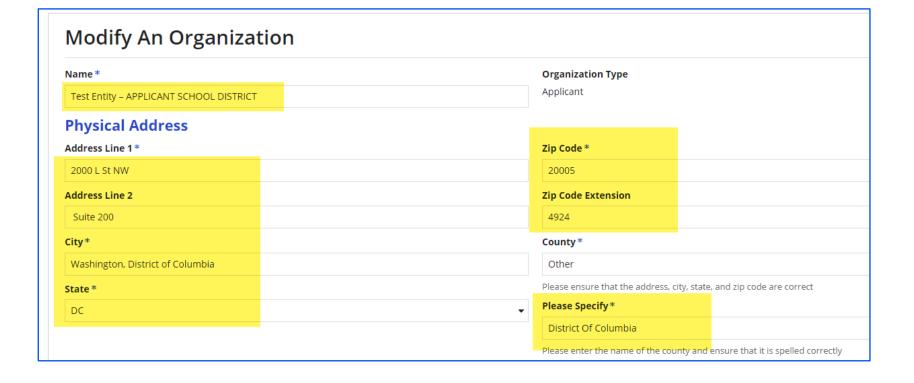
Update Entity Profile

• To update things like address, email, etc., you must update the Entity profile.

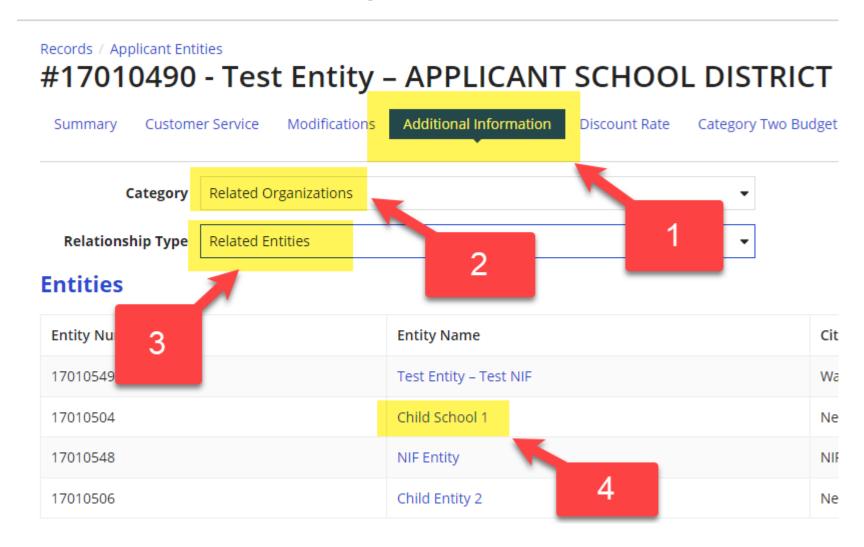


Update Entity Profile

- Address
 determines urban/rural
 status
- Verifies service delivery during invoicing

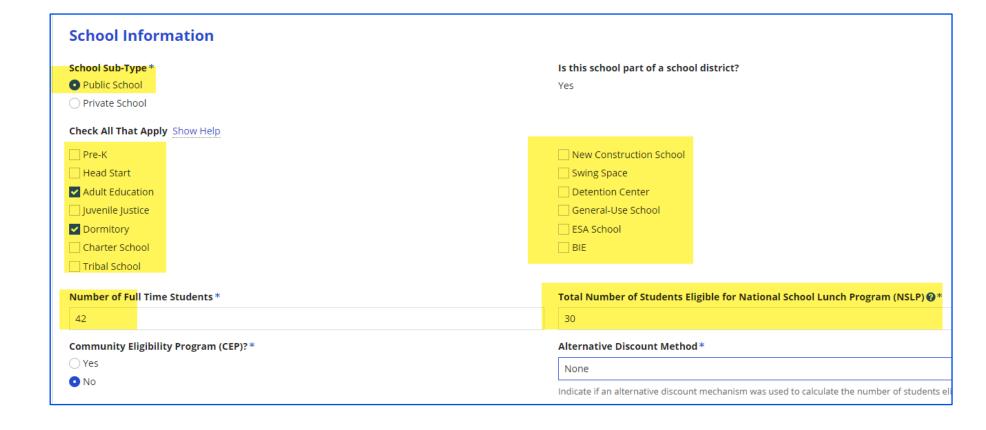


Update Related Entity Profiles



Update Entity Profile - School

- Entity types
 and subtypes
 verify eligibility
- Student counts determine your discount rate

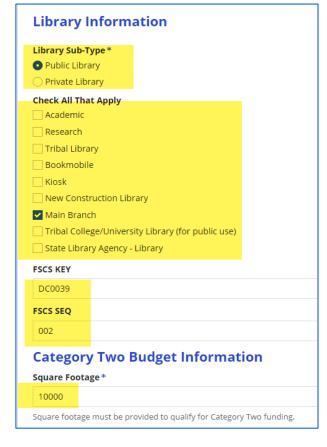


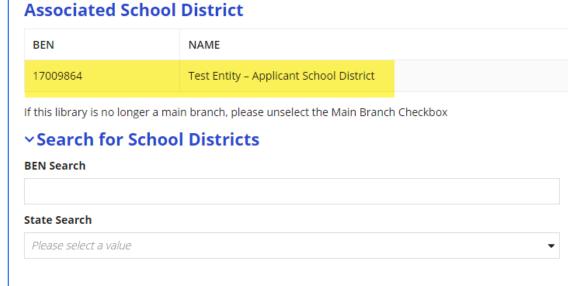
Updating Student Counts

- Students counts from approved FCC Form 471 are in the EPC entity profile prior to the Administrative
 Window
- Update your students counts based on the most recent data you have during the Administrative Window
- If you receive National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and full-time student counts after the Administrative Window closes, use them for the next Funding Year
- Request a revised C2 budget if necessary. If you're only changing your profile in EPC, it will not reset your C2 budget.

Updating Entity Profile - Library

- Library main branch and associated school district determine discount rate
- Square footage determines C2 budget



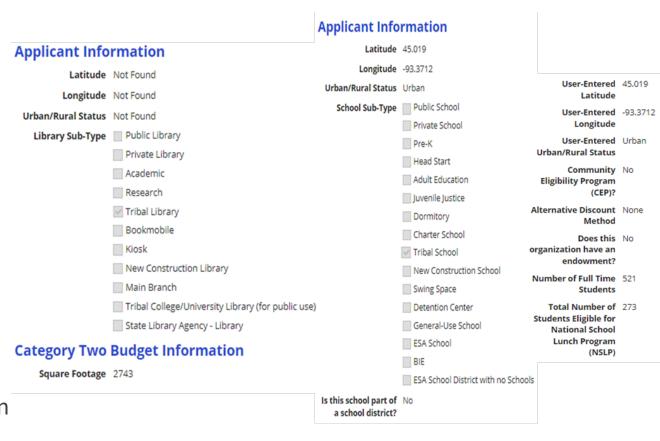


Update Library System (Parent) and Branch (Child) Profiles

- Verify the square footage for each of your library branches and the designation of your library's main branch.
 - Library systems report square footage at the library branch level (rather than a total at the library system level).
- If you are an independent library, designate your library as your main branch.
- Add square footage from bookmobiles and kiosks. A bookmobile or kiosk with zero square footage will not be included in the library system's C2 budget calculation.
- For each new library entity that is currently missing in your organization's profile, USAC must create the entity for you.
- Confirm the main branch is associated with the correct school district.

Indicating Tribal Status

- There is a new entity subtype for Tribal College/University Library based on the recent FCC order
- Entities with the following Tribal subtypes will be asked to provide their Tribal Affiliation based on a dropdown menu:
 - Tribal library
 - Tribal school
 - BIE (Bureau of Indian Education)
- If one of the entity subtypes above are selected and the school or library does not meet the new definition of Tribal under the FCC order, we recommend you deselect the entity subtype accordingly
- Tribal entity eligibility will be reviewed as part of the FCC Form 471 application review process in FY24





FY2025 CEP Changes

- The minimum allowable Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) % changed from 40% to 25% starting in FY 2024.
- Applicants are no longer required to submit a Receipt Acknowledgement Request (RAL) for CEP % between 25-39%.
- Applicants can now update the CEP % in their EPC entity profile for 25%+.
- Reminder: Check the base year to ensure it is updated to the start of your CEP cycle.
- For more information on CEP, visit our website.

User-Entered 31.0837 Latitude User-Entered -97.5966 Longitude User-Entered Urban **Urban/Rural Status Community** Yes **Eligibility Program** (CEP)? CEP Percentage 34.55% CEP Base Year 2022 Does this No organization have an endowment? Number of Full Time 602 Students Total Number of 333 Students Eligible for National School **Lunch Program** (NSLP)

Account Administrators

Who is responsible?

- Account Administrators are responsible for updating the EPC profile during the administrative window.
- If you are unsure who your Account Administrator is, navigate to the Applicant Entity Profile page in EPC and look under the field Account Administrator.
- If you organization does not have an account administrator, call the Customer Service Center:
 - (888) 203-8100, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. ET

EPC Account Administrator Role

- Every organization (independent school, independent library, school district, library system, consortium) with an account in EPC **needs an Account Administrator**.
 - The Account Administrator must be an employee of the Billed Entity Number's (BEN's) school or library and cannot be a consultant.
 - For billed entity and service provider accounts, the Account Administrator is tied to their 498 ID. See <u>Applicant 498</u> and <u>Service Provider 498</u> pages on our website.
- Consultants and Service Providers also need to create Consultant and Service Provider Accounts and Account Administrators for their EPC accounts.

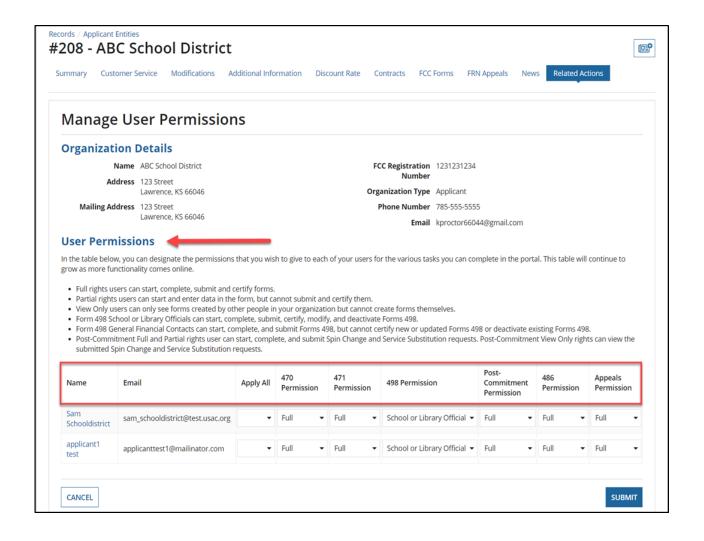
EPC Account Administrator Permissions

Account Administrators can:

- Create new users.
- Modify the rights of existing users.
- Modify information about their organization.
- Link or unlink their organization to consulting firms and consortia.
- Modify (change) the Account Administrator.
- Deactivate users who no longer work for the organization.

Account Administrator Grants User Permissions

 The Account Administrator determines which rights to grant each user.



User "Rights" Levels

The Account Administrator determines which EPC users can view, create, certify, and submit FCC forms and requests. It is a good practice to review these levels annually and update where needed.

- A "Full-Rights" user can complete and certify forms on behalf of the BEN, update profile information, and receive all USAC communications regarding the BEN.
 - For example, you may determine that a **school or library official** should have this level.
- A "Partial-Rights" user can **create forms** (but not certify those forms) and update profile information.
 - You may decide that a general financial contact should have this access level.
- "View-Only" rights users can view (but not update) the accounts.

User Permissions

Abilities	Full Rights	Partial Rights	View Only Rights
Create Forms	X	X	-
Certify and Submit Forms	X	-	-
Update Profile	X	X	-
View Account	X	X	X
Respond to Outreach	X	-	-

Available for Public Use Resources 35

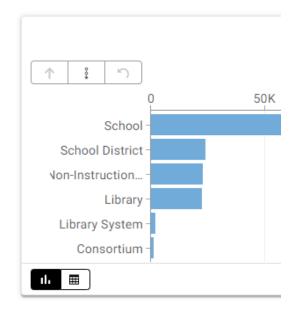
E-Rate Entity Search Tool

- The <u>E-Rate Entity Search</u>
 <u>Tool</u> available in Open
 Data so you can view and
 download entity data
- Once you make updates to entities in EPC, the data will show in the tool the next day
- For more information about Open Data, view our Open Data webinar trainings <u>here</u>.

E-Rate Entity Search Tool

The E-Rate Entity Search Tool enables the search of E-Rate Productivity Center (EPC) information about schools, libraries, school districts, library systems, consortia, and non-instructional facilities (NIFs). For Annexes information, please refer to the "E-Rate Supplemental Entity Information: Annexes" dataset.

Watch the video walkthrough to learn how to use the tool.



How to Update your EPC Profile During the Administrative Window eLearning Module (eLM)

- Explaining User Permissions
- Updating Profile
- Requesting C2 Budget
 Replacement
- Reporting Student Counts
- How to Update Your E-Rate
 EPC Profile During the
 Administrative Window



What if I Miss the Administrative Window?

Once the Administrative Window Closes, the filing window for the FCC Form 471 applications will begin shortly after:

- EPC profiles are now "locked": No new changes can be made that affect an entity's discount calculation.
- Applicants would need to submit a Receipt Acknowledgement Letter (RAL Modification) after certifying their FCC Form 471.

To file a Modification Request (RAL), follow these instructions:

- 1. Find and open the appropriate FCC Form 471. You can find your forms on your Landing Page under Forms and Post-Commitment Requests, or from your entity Summary page under FCC Forms.
- 2. Filter the forms by FCC Form 471, Funding Year, and Certified.
- 3. Click on the FCC Form 471 that you want to update.
- 4. Near the top of the page (under the form name), click "Related Actions."
- 5. Click "Submit Modification Request (RAL)."

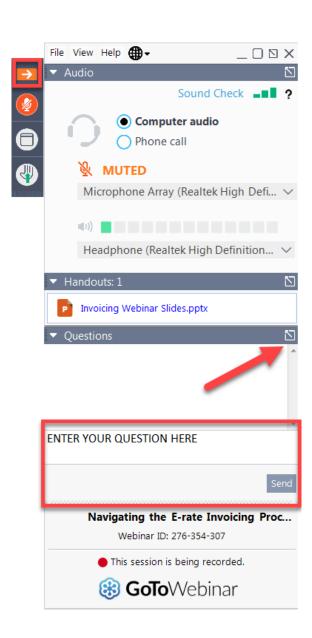
Administrative Window Tips

- Start early and do not wait until the last minute!
- Ensure your Account Administrator is active.
- Leverage EPC self-service capabilities.
- Request new entities via a customer service case early in the window.
- Leverage the open data tool to review existing and updated entity data.
- Set yourself up for success for FCC Form 471 application window.
- Help us help you!



Live Q&A

- Submit your questions about today's topics:
- About the Administrative Window
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Q&A Tips

- Type your queries into the "Questions" box in your webinar control panel.
- ✓ Write in full sentences.
- ✓ Ask one question at a time.
- ✓ Click the box with the arrow above the questions box to expand it and see all the written answers.

Questions?

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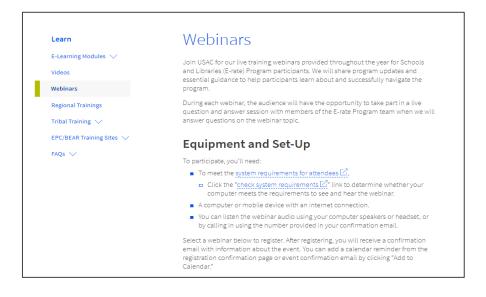
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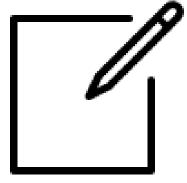
Upcoming Webinars

Our upcoming Fall Training webinars:

- E-Rate Fall Training: Post Commitment, October 31, 2024
- E-Rate Fall Training: Invoicing, November 7, 2024
 - Recommended for applicants and service providers
 - Suitable for all E-Rate experience levels
- Subscribe to the <u>E-Rate News Brief</u>.
- Please visit the E-Rate <u>Webinars</u> page for additional information.



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- We appreciate your feedback!

Thank You!

