



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL F. RICE, Ph.D.  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

## **MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** March 23, 2020

**TO:** Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents  
Public School Academy Directors

**FROM:** Venessa A. Keesler, Ph.D., Deputy Superintendent *V. Keesler*  
Division of Educator, Student, and School Support

**SUBJECT:** FCC Waives USF Restrictions on Vendor Gifts to Applicants Temporarily

The Wireline Competition Bureau or the Federal Communications Commission has waived the Universal Service Fund (USF) gift rules until September 30, 2020. By waiving the gift rules, service providers may offer, and E-Rate program participants may solicit and accept, improved connections or additional equipment for remote learning during the coronavirus outbreak.

Services and equipment include but are not limited to:

- Increased bandwidth
- Wi-Fi hotspots
- Equipment supporting internal connections

Service providers may also offer free or reduced-cost internet access service and/or equipment directly to families with school-age children. Such a transaction would not be subject to E-Rate rules as an E-Rate eligible institution would not be involved.

You may view the full press release at the FCC's website (<https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-363137A1.pdf>). Contact service providers and vendors directly to inquire on the availability of products and services.

For more information regarding this or other E-Rate related inquiries, please contact Joe Polasek at [polasekj3@michigan.gov](mailto:polasekj3@michigan.gov).

cc: Michigan Education Alliance

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