



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

SHEILA A. ALLES  
INTERIM STATE SUPERINTENDENT

**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** January 24, 2019

**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:** State of Michigan E-Rate Special Construction Matching Fund

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) is pleased to announce the allocation of \$5 million for the purposes of leveraging additional dollars through the federal E-Rate program for special construction builds upgrading district, intermediate school district (ISD), public school academy (PSA), and library broadband connections. Using these funds, eligible applicants and consortia groups could leverage up to an additional 10% in E-Rate discount award with a dollar-for-dollar match in state funding. Minimum target speeds, as defined in the Second Modernization Order of 2014, should be 100 megabits per second (Mbps) per 1000 students with plans to support scalability reaching 1 gigabit per second (Gbps) per student.

The MDE has submitted documentation to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) for recognition of the funding allocation and the grant process in which the MDE will disseminate these funds. Once approval is given, the MDE will disseminate information about the grant process. Eligible entities who are below the federal bandwidth targets as presented in the Second Modernization Order of 2014 will be given funding priority, but all eligible entities are encouraged to apply when the grant becomes available.

While the MDE cannot guarantee the availability of these funds in E-Rate Funding Year 2019, if the funds do become available, eligible applicants with qualifying projects should check the box on the FCC Form 471 denoting that a state match exists. Checking the box will not jeopardize funding for the applicant but will trigger a more robust Program Integrity Assurance (PIA) review of the application. The MDE anticipates funding will be available no later than E-Rate Funding Year 2020.

For more information, please send an email to [erate@michigan.gov](mailto:erate@michigan.gov) or contact Joe Polasek, State E-Rate Coordinator, at [polasekj3@michigan.gov](mailto:polasekj3@michigan.gov), or 517-335-1291.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance

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608 WEST ALLEGAN STREET • P.O. BOX 30008 • LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909  
[www.michigan.gov/mde](http://www.michigan.gov/mde) • 833-633-5788