



THE STATE  
of **ALASKA**  
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of Education  
& Early Development

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

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February 27, 2024

RE: School Broadband Assistance Grants (BAG) Funding and E-Rate Form 470 Filing

Dear Superintendents,

The Department of Education and Early Development (DEED) is aware that there is a significant level of confusion and concern surrounding the School Broadband Assistance Grants (BAG) component of Senate Bill 140 (SB 140) regarding deadlines for the federal E-Rate program, that the bill needs to be passed and signed by February 28, 2024, in order for money to be secured for this program.

The deadline of February 28<sup>th</sup> is for school districts to submit their application for the E-Rate program; school districts have a subsequent deadline of March 27 11:59 p.m. ET, which is March 27, 2024, 7:59 p.m. Alaska Time to finalize their application for the E-Rate services. As detailed in the program guidance from the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) in the [Form 470 User Guide](#), applicants can add multiple service requests and may include **both** 25 Mbps and 100 Mbps download speed options, so that schools may access either speed option to remain eligible for School BAG.

Requesting both speed options (25 Mbps and 100 Mbps download speeds) will provide assurance that schools remain eligible for School BAG pending the outcome of current legislation ([SB 140](#) and [HB 193](#) as of the date of transmission of this memo) to modify [AS 14.03.127](#) *Funding for internet services*.

Should there be a change in statute, schools will then have either option to pursue when they finalize their E-Rate application in March on their [Form 471](#) ([4 AAC 33.605](#)).

School districts should go into the [E-Rate Productivity Center](#) to certify another FY2024 FCC Form 470 to include both 25 Mbps and 100 Mbps download speed options by tomorrow, February 28, 2024. Please keep in mind the deadline is February 28, 2024, 11:59 p.m. ET, which is **February 28, 2024, 7:59 p.m. Alaska Time**.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Deena Bishop".

Deena Bishop, Ed.D.  
Commissioner