



Southeastern Libraries Cooperating & Southeast Library System

Serving academic, public, school, and special libraries

SELCO Internet Service

E-Rate Update - April 1, 2025

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What is E-Rate

E-Rate is a federal program, administered by the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) under the direction of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), that provides discounts to eligible schools and libraries for telecommunications, internet access, and internal connections.

SELCO provides its [Internet Service](#) to 34 out of 37 public libraries within its region. Using both E-Rate funding and RLTA funding, it can provide both the Internet and Local Network hardware and support at no additional cost to the participating library.

E-Rate Court Case

There is a current legal challenge before the Supreme Court regarding the constitutionality of the E-rate program. For more information:

<https://publiclibrariesonline.org/2024/11/e-rate-and-universal-service-under-fire-ala-prepares-for-supreme-court/>

Impact to SELCO's Internet Service

If E-Rate funding was cut, the first impact would be that SELCO would no longer be able to use E-Rate and RLTA to cover the cost of the Internet Service Provider for the

libraries. This means libraries would have to pick up the cost of their internet and possibly their network equipment.

It is unclear how this will affect RLTA funding as of yet. There are a couple of possible outcomes.

- If we still get some RLTA funding, SELCO may be able to use it to assist libraries with some of their Internet and Network Equipment costs.
- If RLTA is completely removed, costs for both the library's Internet and Network Equipment will become the library's responsibility.

Even if we lost both E-Rate and RLTA funding, SELCO would still provide local network support for libraries that needed it. This means we would be looking at standard routers and switches that libraries could purchase on their own. SELCO would still configure, monitor, and even provide wifi statistics as we do now. If there is a disruption of service from the Internet Service Provider, libraries would have to contact them directly as SELCO would no longer be working with the Internet Service Provider on the library's behalf.

Conclusion

There are still many unknowns regarding how E-Rate and RLTA will be impacted by this court case, and we definitely do not want to change our current Internet Service but are simply looking ahead and planning for the worst.

This will also allow libraries to plan in their 2026 budgets for the potential of additional expenses should the court case decision negatively affect E-Rate and RLTA funding.