

Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

In the Matter of)
)
Modernizing the E-Rate Program for Schools and) WC Docket No. 13-184
Libraries)

ORDER

Adopted: November 9, 2023

Released: November 9, 2023

New Deadline for Filing Comments: November 30, 2023

By the Chief, Wireline Competition Bureau:

1. By this Order, the Wireline Competition Bureau (Bureau) extends, *sua sponte*, the filing deadline for comments regarding the addition of services and equipment needed to use Wi-Fi service on school buses to the funding year (FY) 2024 eligible services list for the E-Rate program until **November 30, 2023**.

2. On October 19, 2023, the Commission adopted a Declaratory Ruling regarding Wi-Fi on school buses.¹ In the Declaratory Ruling, the Commission directed the Bureau to fund these services and to seek comment on the services and equipment that would be eligible as part of the eligible services list proceeding for funding year 2024.² On October 25, 2023, the Bureau released a Public Notice seeking comment on adding the specific equipment and services needed to use wi-fi on school buses to the FY 2024 eligible services list for the E-Rate program, that established a comment deadline of November 24, 2023.³ In order to allow parties a reasonable opportunity in which to comment, and in recognition of the conflicts and closures due to the upcoming holiday, the Bureau, *sua sponte*, is extending the time period for filing comments. Although the Commission’s policy is that extensions of time for filing comments shall not be routinely granted,⁴ we find that granting a brief extension of the comment period in this matter will serve the public interest by allowing all parties to gather the information needed to prepare and submit their comments. We also expect that this brief extension will facilitate the development of a more complete record.

3. Accordingly, IT IS ORDERED, pursuant to sections 4(i) and 303(r) of the Communications Act, as amended, 47 U.S.C. §§ 154(i), 303(r), and sections 0.91, 0.291, and 1.46 of the Commission’s rules, 47 CFR §§ 0.91, 0.291, and 1.46, that the date for filing comments IS EXTENDED to November 30, 2023.

¹ *Modernizing the E-Rate Program for Schools and Libraries*, WC Docket No. 13-184, Declaratory Ruling, FCC 23-84 (rel. Oct. 25, 2023) (*Wi-Fi on School Buses Declaratory Ruling*).

² *Id.* at 8, para. 12.

³ *Wireline Competition Bureau Seeks Additional Comment on Adding Wi-Fi on School Buses to Proposed Eligible Services List for the E-Rate Program*, WC Docket No. 13-184, Public Notice, DA 23-1011 (WCB Oct. 25, 2023).

⁴ *See, e.g.*, 47 CFR § 1.46.

4. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, that pursuant to section 1.102(b)(1) of the Commission's rules, 47 CFR § 1.102(b)(1), this Order SHALL BE EFFECTIVE upon release.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Trent B. Harkrader
Chief
Wireline Competition Bureau