



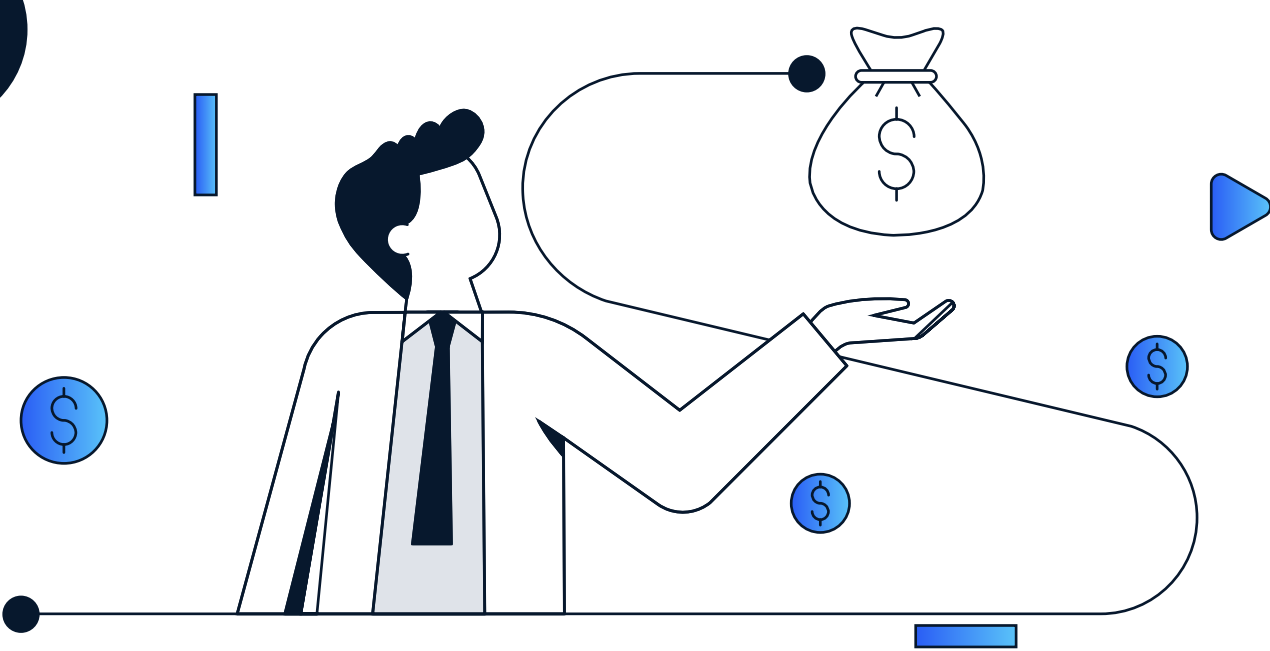
Looking to Maximize Your E-rate Dollars?

Here are 10 tips from E-rate pros



For two decades, E-rate funds have made technology more affordable for schools and libraries across the U.S. In that time, many have discovered how to make the most of the E-rate dollars available to them. We've taken their input—as well as recommendations from E-rate consulting firm Funds for Learning—and developed this list of best practices: our top tips for E-rate success.

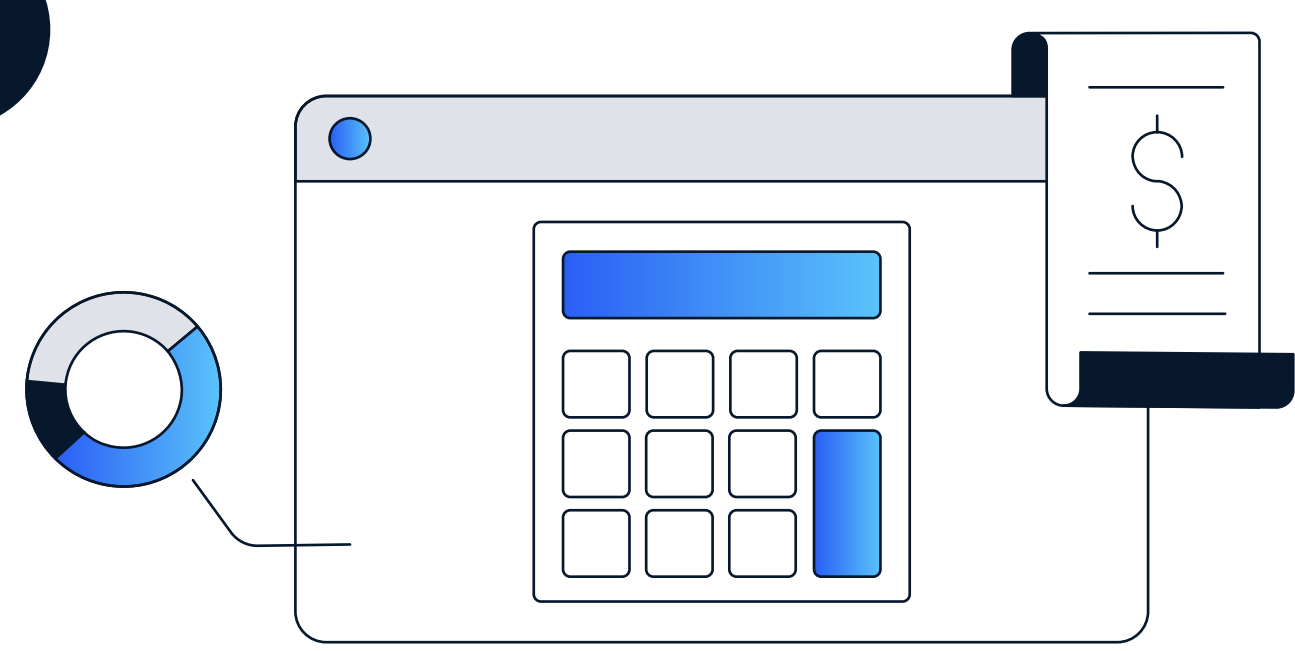
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The E-rate program is now stronger!

Starting in 2021, at least \$8B in funding will be available and the five-year budget cycle will be reset.

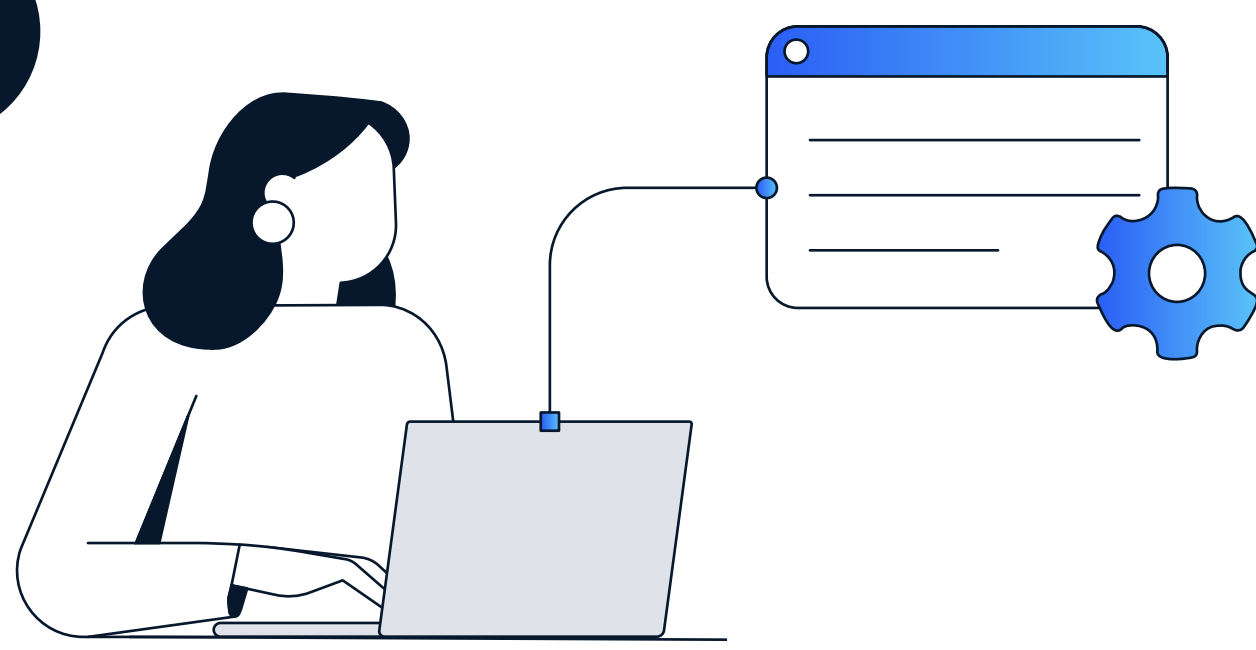
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Know the updated budget calculation for your school or library.

For schools/districts: (Enrollment) x \$167 = total pre-discount budget \$ available. \$4.50 per square foot for all libraries (both rural and urban). The per-site funding “floor” will be increased from \$9,200 per site to \$25,000.

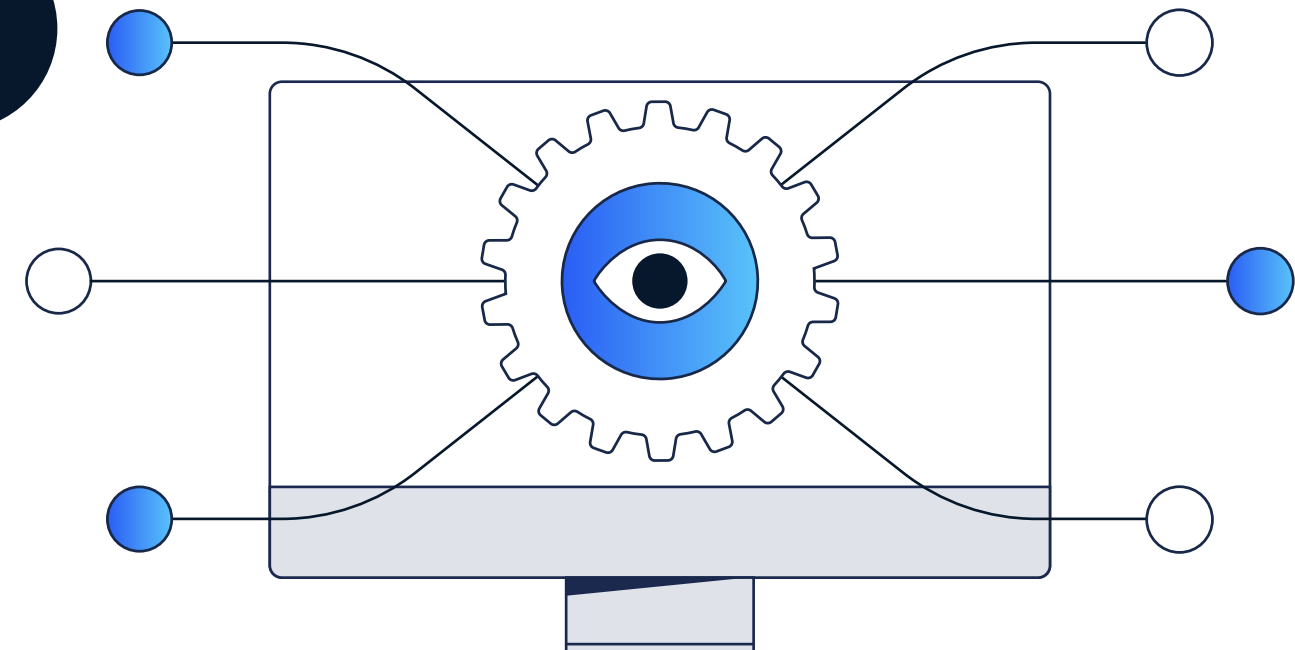
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Assess resources, and decide who will manage your application.

55% of schools and libraries say the application process is getting easier and faster.

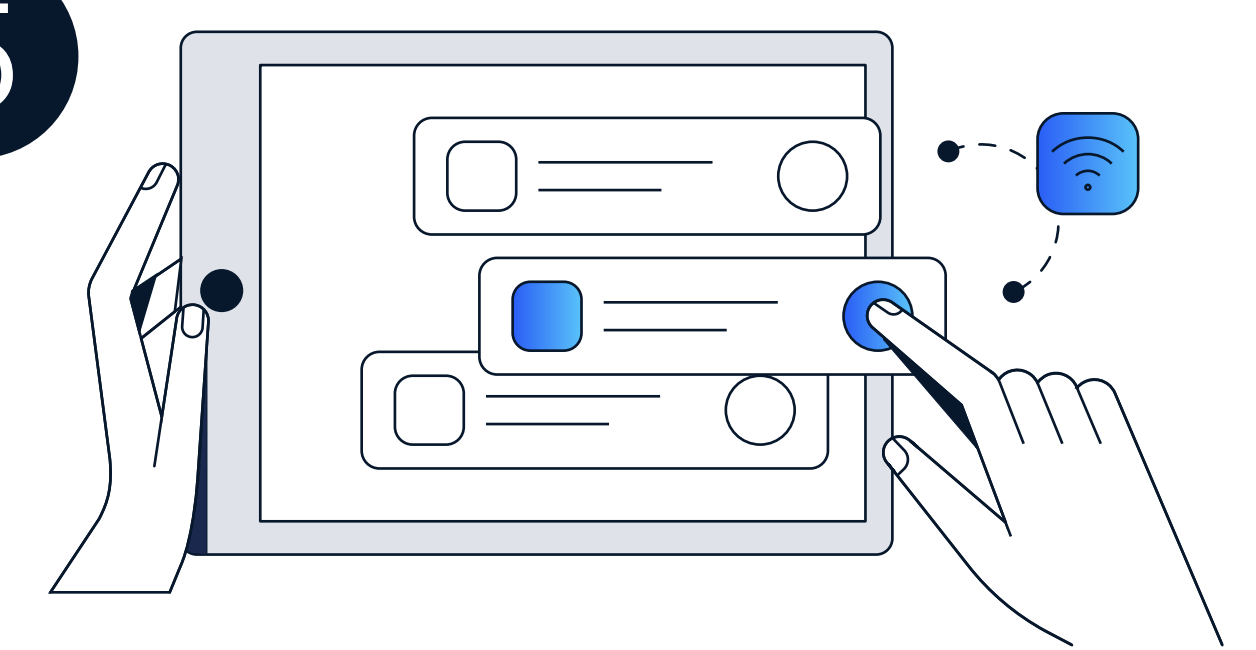
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Create a tech vision for your school or library.

Engage your stakeholders, take a step back, and consider the bigger picture.

5

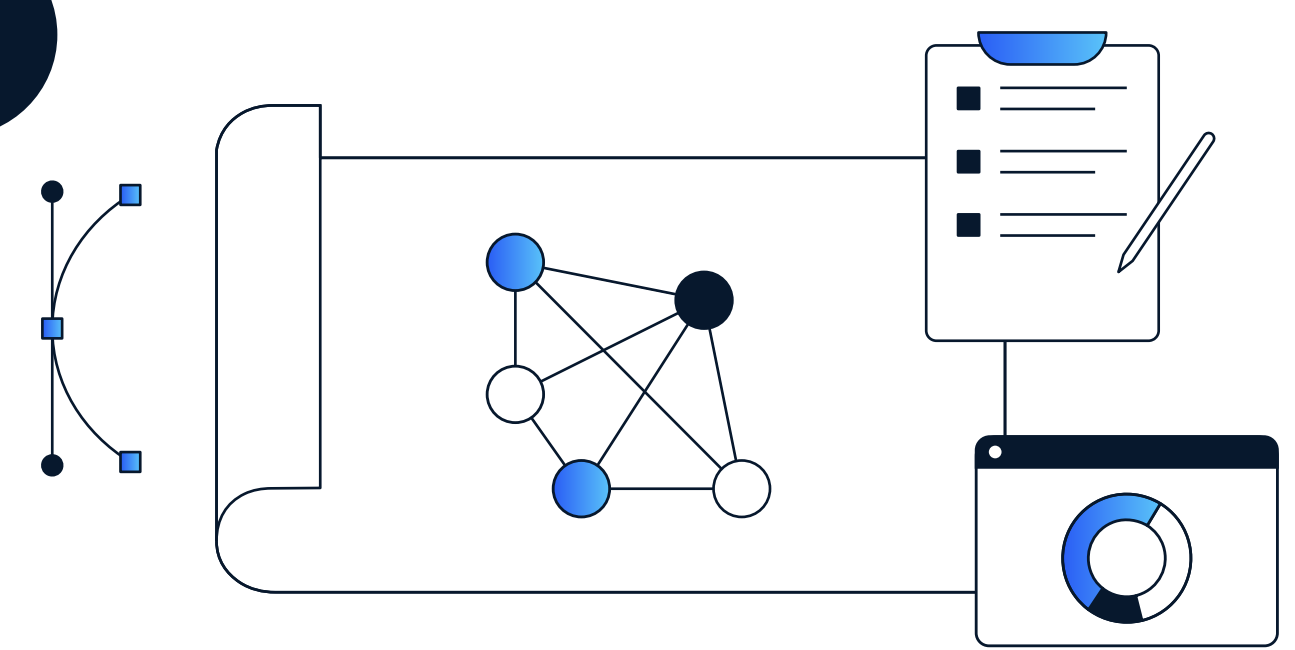


Assess needs and prioritize.

98% of applicants say their Wi-Fi network is critical to fulfilling their mission.

79% of applicants will need to upgrade their Wi-Fi within three years.

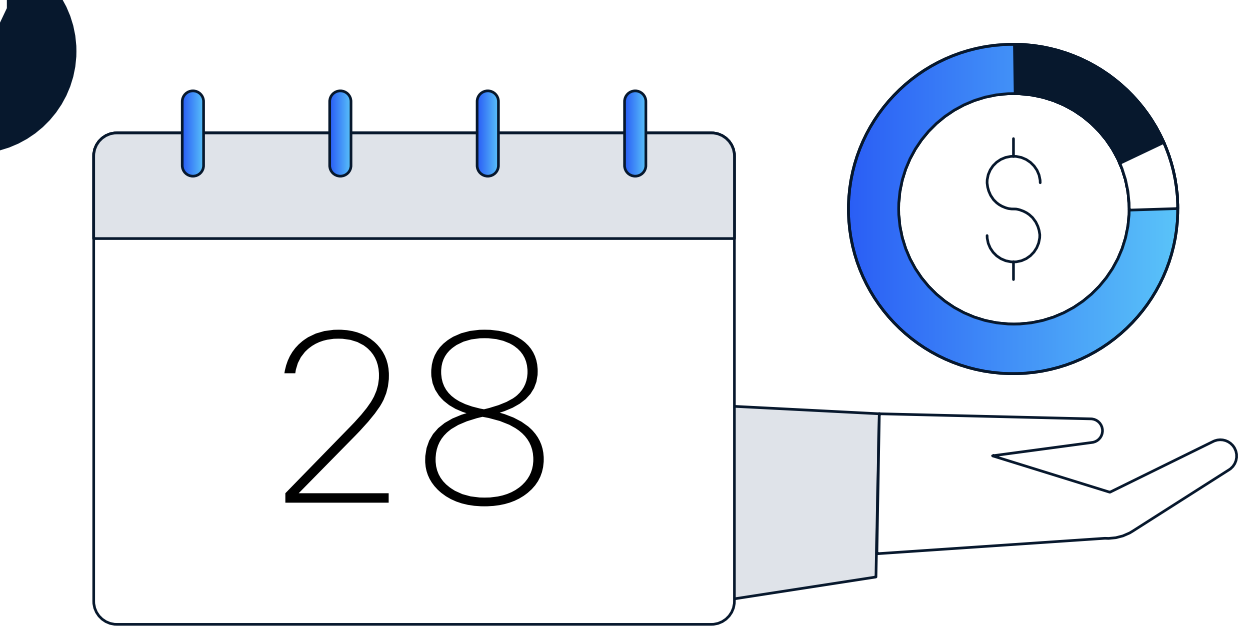
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Plan + design your network to align with your vision, goals, and priorities.

See where you are today and what's needed by viewing our Network Readiness Checklist.

7



Use a competitive bidding process.

- 28 Days of open bidding.
- Cost is the highest-weighted factor.

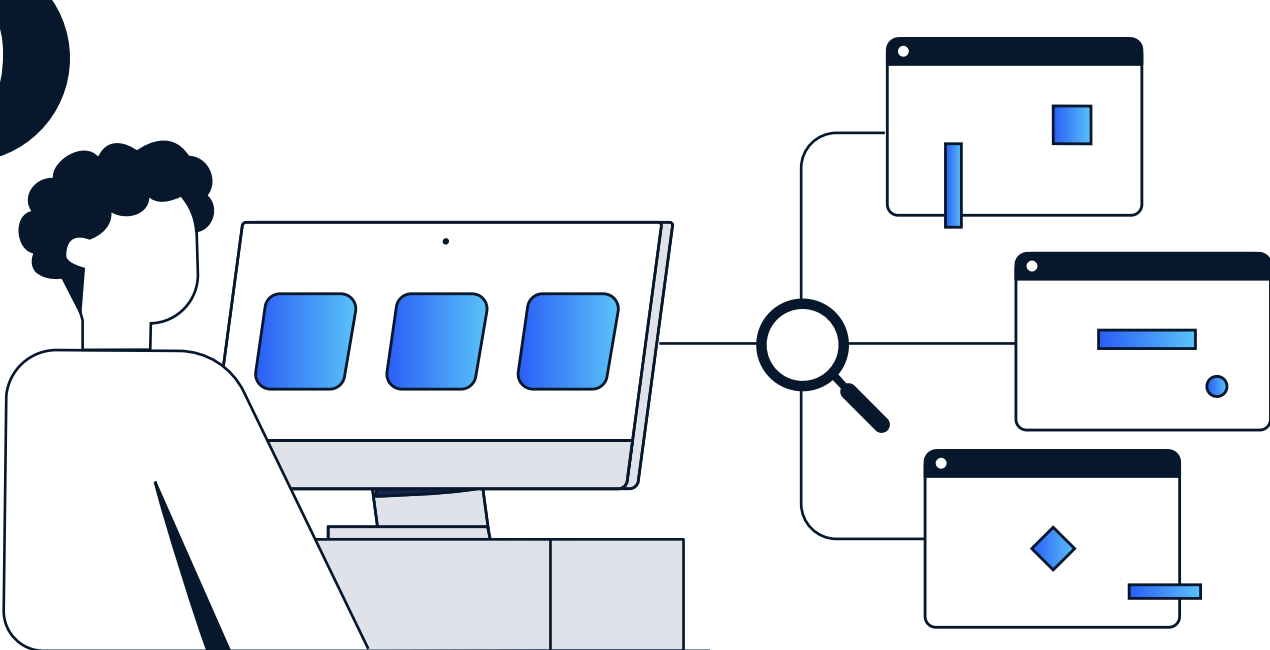
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Know the E-rate Productivity Center (EPC), and mind your deadlines.

55% of applicants agreed that it took less time to prepare and file applications last year.

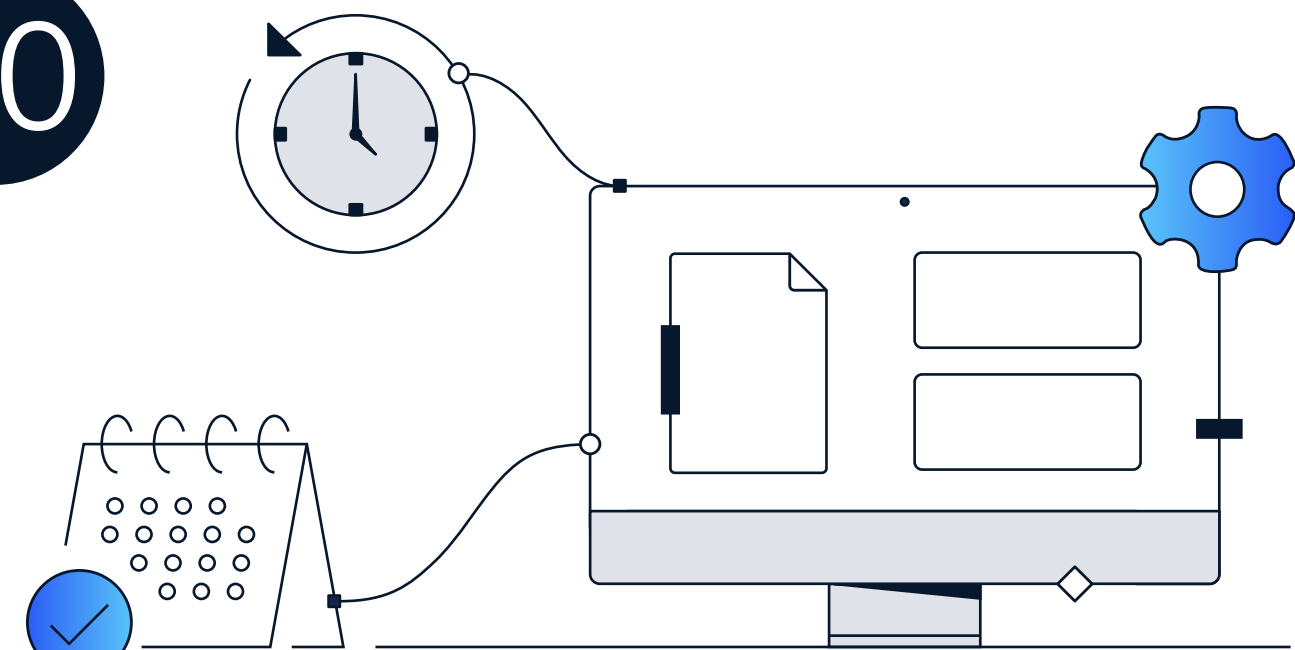
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Identify matching and other funding sources.

95% of applicants report that E-rate funds are not sufficient to meet their needs.

10



Manage the process year-round.

Manage deadlines and document work to stay ahead of the game and keep E-rate funds flowing.

Source:

Funds for Learning Survey

[Learn more >](#)