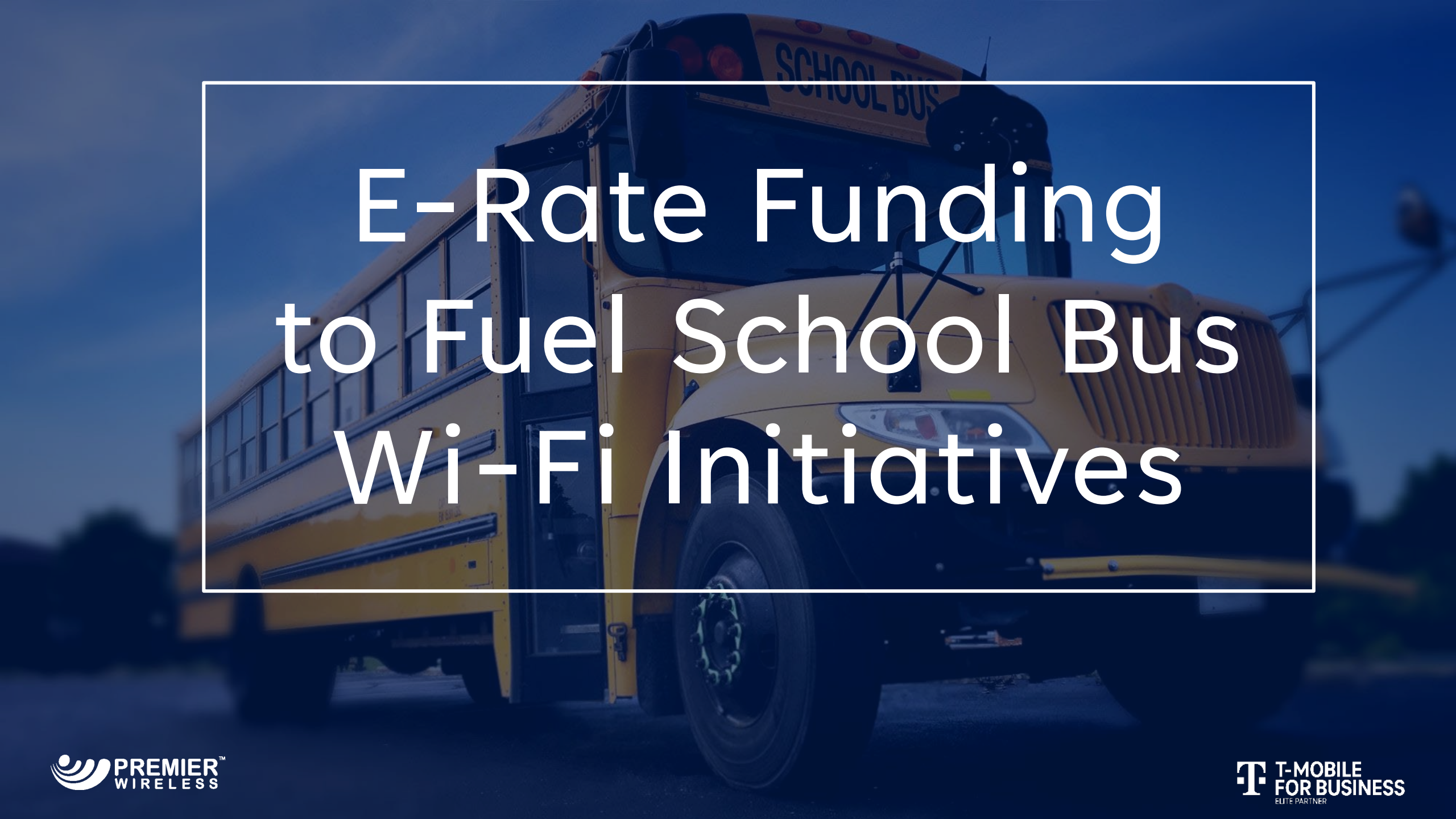

E-Rate Funding to Fuel School Bus Wi-Fi Initiatives

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E-RATE FUNDING

Exciting News!

School Bus Wi-Fi Gets a Green Light from the FCC!

FCC | E-RATE FUNDABLE

The **"Learn Without Limits"** initiative will provide an everlasting and substantial impact, especially on rural and socioeconomically disadvantaged youth nationwide.

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BUS WI-FI PROVIDES EQUITY AND ACCESS

"We are going to close the homework gap and get more kids connected for schools.

- FCC Chairwoman, Jessica Rosenworcel

- Students can now leverage travel time and turn it into learning time.
- E-Rate enables you to provide all students extended learning time with affordable and sustainable 5G bus Wi-Fi.

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WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO “LEARN WITHOUT LIMITS”

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ARE THEY USING WI-FI TO LEARN ON THE BUS?

DAILY IMPACT

- Completing schoolwork
- Studying for test and quizzes
- Researching information for assignments

LIFETIME IMPACT

- Teaching digital literacy through equity and access
- Fostering a sense of curiosity
- Building lifelong “Googlers”

3 KEY BENEFITS OF BUS WI-FI

Extended Learning Time

- Turn commute time into productive time

Digital Equity

- Bus Wi-Fi is the most cost-effective way to provide equity to all students

Reduced Behavior Problems

- Increased student engagement in constructive activities means fewer undesirable activities occur

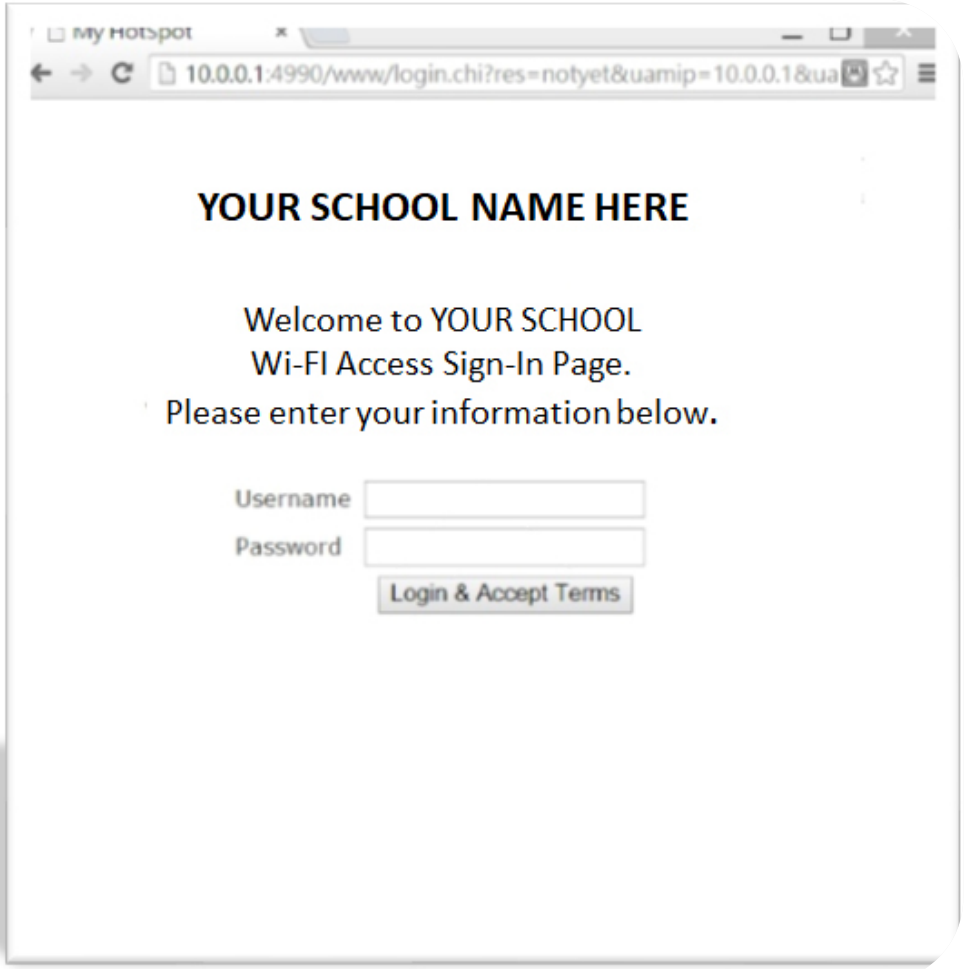
HOW DO WE KEEP KIDS SAFE ONLINE?

CONTENT FILTERING

- Carrier Filtering
- Router Filtering
- Behind Firewall

SINGLE SIGN-ON

- Secure student log-in
- MAC-filter authentication



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WHAT ARE THE BUS WI-FI COMPONENTS

HARDWARE

One-Time Expense

INSTALLATION

One-Time Expense

Professional installation
or Self-installation

SERVICE

Annual Expense

Router License &
Connectivity

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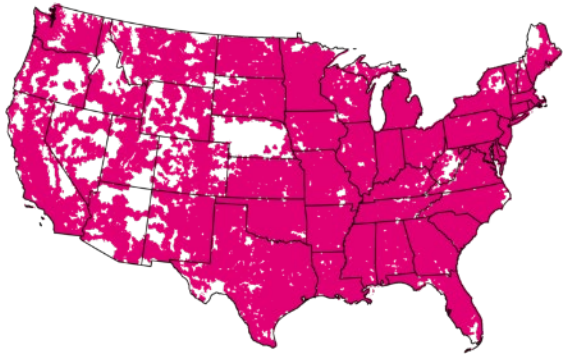
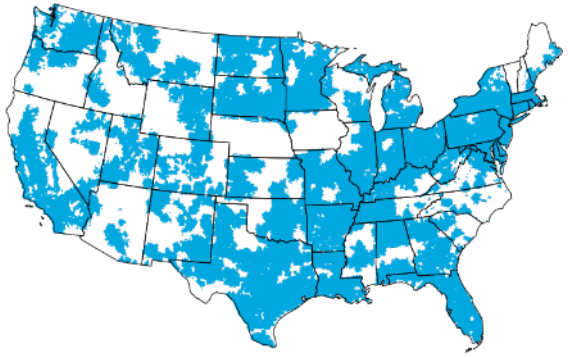
NETWORKS MATTER – 5G MATTERS

	T-Mobile	verizon	AT&T
			
Low-band	Extended Range 5G: **2.0M sq. miles** 326M people covered	5G Nationwide **0.4M sq. miles** 240M people covered	5G Nationwide **1.3M sq. miles** 290M people covered
Mid-band & mmWave	Ultra Capacity 5G: **275M people covered**	Ultra Wideband: **200M people covered**	5G Plus: **160M people covered**

WHAT IS E-RATE?

The E-Rate program provides discounts to assist most schools and libraries in the United States in obtaining affordable high-speed Internet and telecommunication services.

WHAT DOES IT COVER?

Program participants may request funding in 5 categories:

- Telecommunications
- Telecommunications Services
- Internet Access
- Internal Connections
- Basic Maintenance of Internal Connections

HOW DOES IT WORK?

Discounts for support depend on the level of poverty and the urban/rural status of the population served and range from 20 percent to 90 percent of the costs of eligible services.

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HOW DOES BILLING WORK?

FORMS

- **Form 470:** Request for Services (Competitive Bidding)
- **Form 471:** Request for Funding/Discount once service provider has been selected

BEAR VS. SPI

BEAR: Billed Entity Applicant Reimbursement (Form 474)

- The service provider invoices you (client) for the full amount. Client requests reimbursement from USAC directly.

SPI: Service Provider Invoice (Form 472)

- Service provider submits for reimbursement from USAC and only invoice you (client) for your responsible portion.

E-RATE ($4.4B) ~$2.1B FOR BUS WI-FI

AVAILABILITY OF E-RATE FUNDS

INCOME Measured by % of students eligible for the National School Lunch Program (NSLP)	CATEGORY ONE (C1)		CATEGORY TWO (C2)	
	URBAN Discount	**RURAL** Discount	**URBAN** Discount	**RURAL** Discount
Less than 1%	20%	25%	20%	25%
1% to 19%	40%	50%	40%	50%
20% to 34%	50%	60%	50%	60%
35% to 49%	60%	70%	60%	70%
50% to 74%	80%	80%	80%	80%
75% to 100%	90% for C1, 85% for C2			
	Tribal Libraries: FY 2023 and earlier: 90% for C1, 85% for C2 FY 2024 and Later: 90% for C1 and C2			

WHAT WE DON'T KNOW…YET

QUESTIONS FOR THE FCC

- What restrictions or limitations should be imposed to ensure the service is used primarily for educational purposes?
- Can buses be parked and still have an active Wi-Fi connection?

WHAT WE DON'T KNOW…YET

QUESTIONS FOR THE FCC

- Will there be any discounts during the summer months when buses may be seldom used?
- Would portable Wi-Fi equipment, transportable between buses, be eligible?
- How will bus Wi-Fi service contracts and/or maintenance be handled?

WHAT WE DON'T KNOW...YET

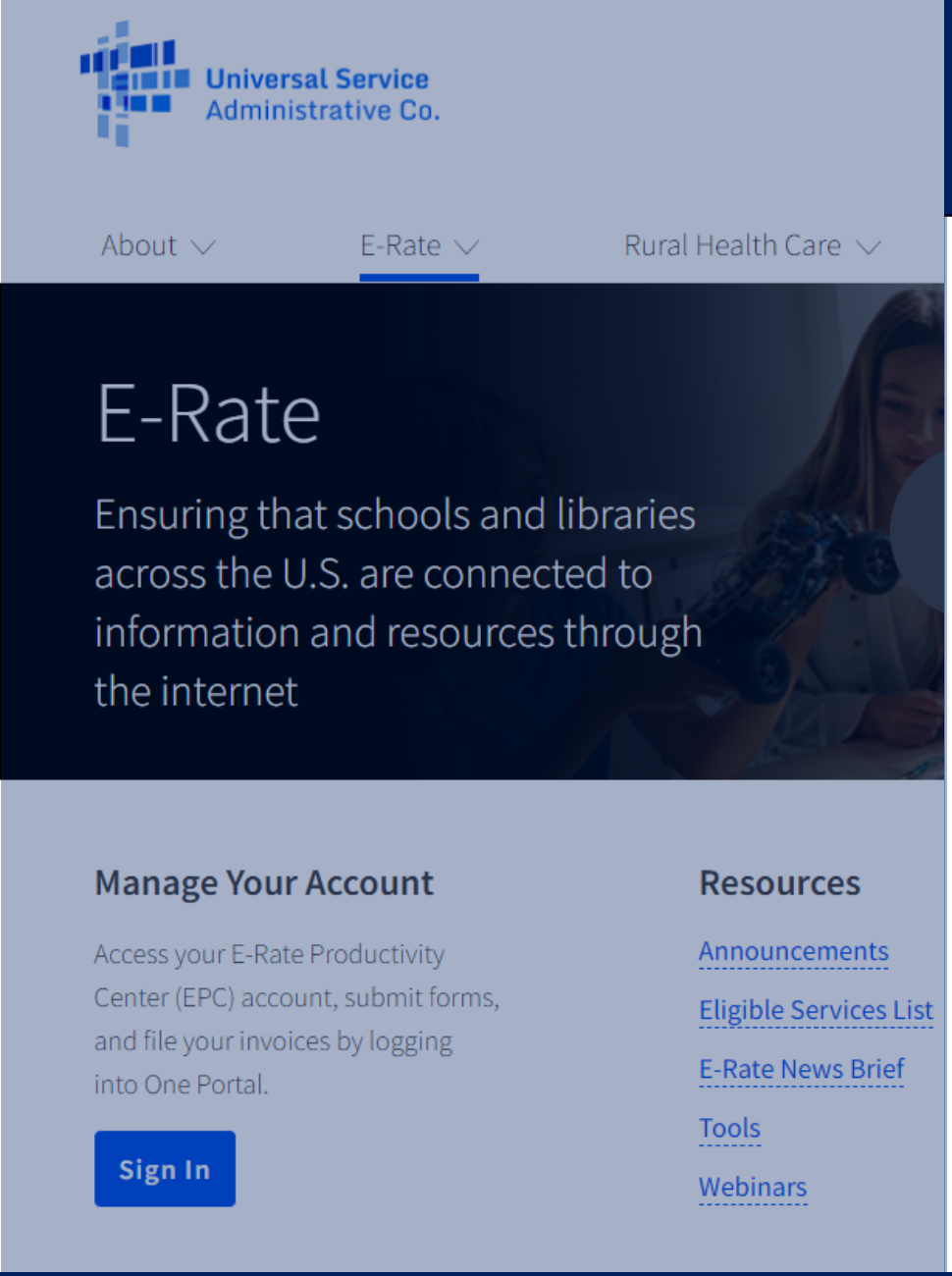
QUESTIONS FOR THE FCC

- Will third-party bus ownership be an issue? (Many districts lease buses from a commercial company.)
- Would the rules preclude applications by consortia?

WHAT WE DON'T KNOW...YET

QUESTIONS FOR THE FCC

- Will schools be required to issue an RFP for any or all segments of a bus Wi-Fi request?
- Will equipment and services be classified as a Category One or Category Two expense?
- Will the current E-rate application and follow-up processes (bidding, forms, etc.) be used?
- Will there be a new "bus" drop-down option on Form 470?



WHAT SHOULD YOU DO NOW?

Ensure your USAC profile is current

Identify fleet needs for bus Wi-Fi

- Determine router requirements

Talk to us... let's review your needs

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CONNECTED BUS – SUITE OF PRODUCTS

CONNECTIVITY

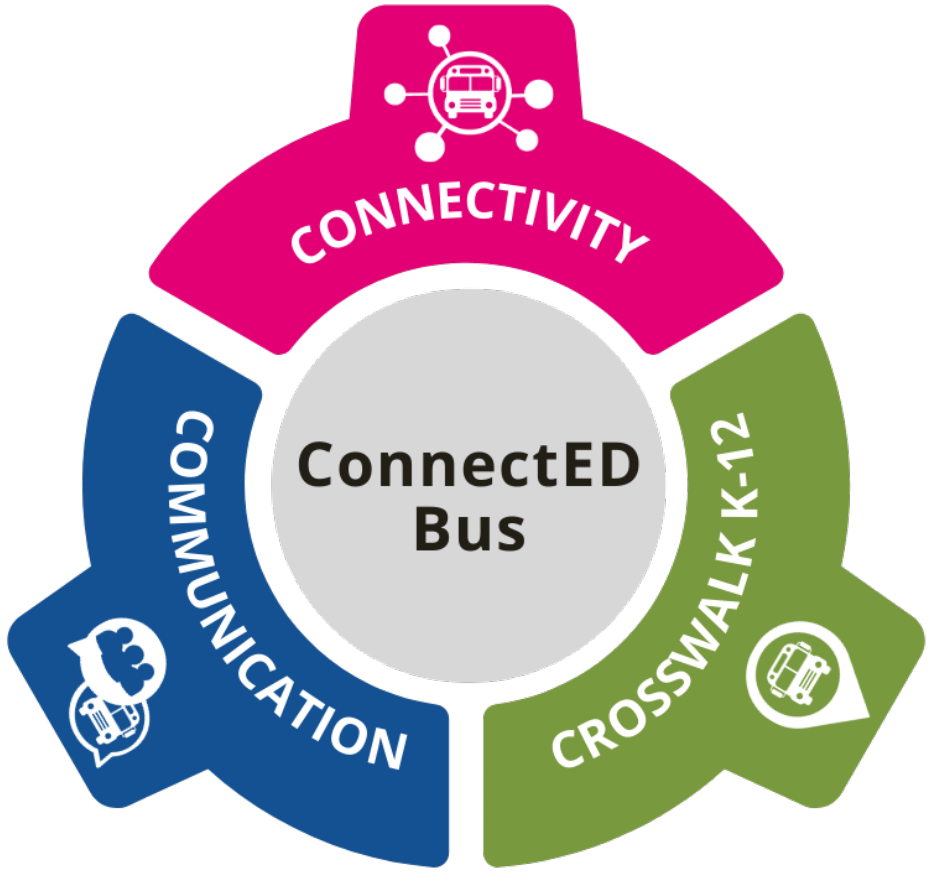
Bus Wi-Fi

CROSSWALK K-12

GPS, Student Tracking & Parent App

COMMUNICATION

Cellular Based 2-Way Radio



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