



Federal Communications Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20554

May 3, 2023

Dear Tribal Leader:

On behalf of Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel, you are cordially invited by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to participate in an upcoming consultation and listening session regarding the FCC's Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) to address Tribal schools' and libraries' barriers to participation in the E-Rate Program. The NPRM is available online at <https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/FCC-23-10A1.pdf>. This consultation and listening session will be held virtually on Friday, May 19, 2023.

**Registration:** All attendees must register. To register, please send an email message to [tribal.events@fcc.gov](mailto:tribal.events@fcc.gov) by Wednesday, May 17, 2023. Please include the names and titles of all attendees and include their Tribal affiliation. If you cannot personally attend and wish to designate a proxy(ies), please specify who is authorized to speak on your behalf in the registration email, and provide their title and Tribal affiliation. You are encouraged to bring staff and library, school, and information technology (IT) representatives to this event. These representatives may participate during the listening session portion of the event, if desired. Please send any questions to [tribal.events@fcc.gov](mailto:tribal.events@fcc.gov), as this email address is monitored by the FCC's Office of Native Affairs and Policy.

**Date:** Friday, May 19, 2023

**Time:** 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. EDT

**Host:** FCC Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau, Office of Native Affairs and Policy

**Location:** Virtual (Link provided upon registration)

**Summary:** The FCC's Schools and Libraries Program, commonly known as the E-Rate Program, provides support for eligible schools and libraries to access Internet service, internal connections (e.g., Wi-Fi network equipment, routers, cabling), basic maintenance of internal connections, and managed internal broadband service (e.g., managed Wi-Fi).

On February 16, 2023, the FCC adopted an NPRM seeking comment on steps the FCC can take to address barriers and encourage greater participation by Tribal schools and libraries in the E-Rate Program, including proposals to simplify the E-Rate forms and cost allocation requirements, to enhance E-Rate support for Internet connections to schools and libraries, and to allow Tribal college libraries that also serve as the community's public library to be eligible for support.

The deadline to submit written comments is **Tuesday, May 23, 2023**. Written comments can be submitted to [TribalE-RateNPRM@fcc.gov](mailto:TribalE-RateNPRM@fcc.gov) or in the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System at <https://www.fcc.gov/ecfs/filings/standard>. Please include CC Docket Nos. 02-6, 96-45, and 97-

21 in your written responses regarding this NPRM. Interested parties are also welcome to submit information for this proceeding after May 23, 2023 deadline, for a limited time, and if additional time is needed.

**Ex Parte Rule Exemption:** Typically, individuals that meet with the Commission to discuss an open proceeding are required to submit a written summary of their conversation, which is called an “ex parte.” The Commission can only rely on statements that are submitted in the public record to reach its decisions. For the Tribal E-Rate NPRM, official Tribal leaders and their proxies are exempt from the requirement to submit a summary of their statements made during the consultation into the public record. To ensure this feedback may be relied upon as part of the decision-making process, FCC staff will prepare a written summary of the consultation discussion for submission into the public record. Tribal leaders or their proxies may tell the FCC, prior to or during the consultation, that they request that their statement(s) be excluded from the public record.

Included with this letter is a Framing Paper that provides additional information about the NPRM, and the questions that we kindly request that you consider. You can also find further information about FCC’s Tribal libraries initiatives and how to participate in the E-Rate Program at <https://www.fcc.gov/tribal-libraries> and <https://www.usac.org/e-rate/>.

We hope that you will be able to participate in this important discussion and we value your time and participation. If you have questions regarding this consultation and listening session, you can also contact [Bambi.Kraus@fcc.gov](mailto:Bambi.Kraus@fcc.gov).

Sincerely,



Alejandro Roark  
Bureau Chief  
Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau



Bambi Kraus  
Chief, Office of Native Affairs and Policy  
Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau

Attachment: Framing Paper for Tribal Consultation and Listening Session on May 19, 2023.