

# Bring 21st Century Library Services to all New Yorkers



## What is the E-Rate Program?

On May 7, 1997, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) adopted a Universal Service Order implementing the Telecommunications Act of 1996. The Order, commonly referred to as "E-Rate" (Education Rate), ensures that all eligible schools and libraries have affordable access to modern telecommunications and information services. Up to \$2.25 billion annually was authorized initially to provide eligible schools and libraries with E-Rate discounts. The amount actually allocated by Congress for 1998-99 was \$1.9 billion, but the full \$2.25 billion has been authorized each year beginning with 1999-2000. As of FY 2016 the annual E-rate cap for both category one and category two services is \$3.94 billion, indexed to inflation. During times of zero inflation or deflation, the funding cap will remain the same as the previous year.

**The E-Rate Program is important to New York State. It ensures that all eligible schools and libraries have affordable access to modern telecommunications and information services.**

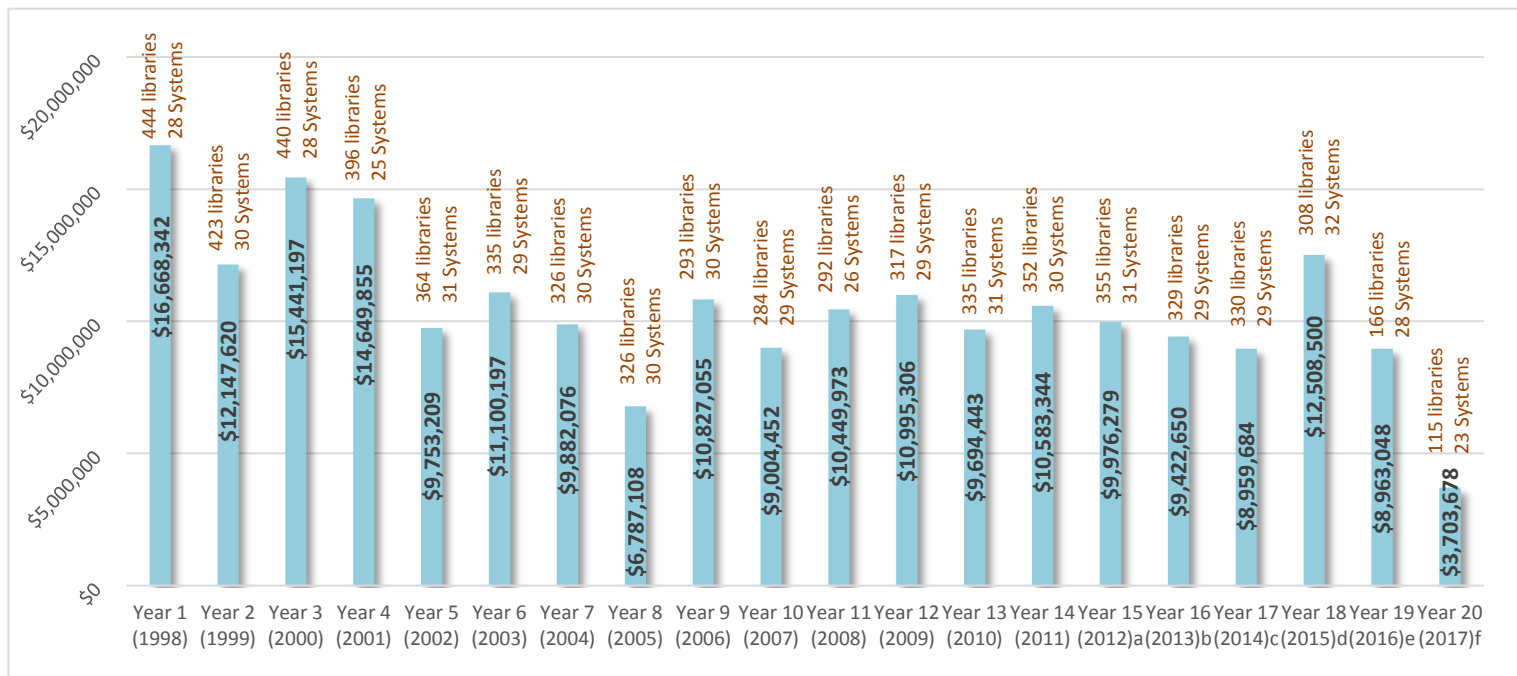


## How does the E-Rate Program help New York State Libraries?

The E-Rate Program provides funding to eligible public libraries and public library systems, not-for-profit special libraries, and reference and research library resources systems. In Program Years (1-19), an average total of 366 libraries and library systems in New York State, with a yearly average of \$10.5 million, received a grand total of \$199.7 million from the E-Rate Program. New York's libraries have received almost \$4 million, as of September 2017, for Program Year 20 (2017). This funding helps libraries purchase affordable advanced telecommunications services, Internet connectivity, and internal connections to meet the information needs of New Yorkers — critical infrastructure in today's information-rich world.

### NEW YORK STATE LIBRARIES AND LIBRARY SYSTEMS

### E-Rate Funding Received Years 1-20 (1998-2017)



- a) Waves TO DATE 1-125, September 25, 2017
- b) Waves TO DATE 1-128, September 25, 2017
- c) Waves TO DATE 1-105, September 25, 2017
- d) Waves TO DATE 1-81, September 25, 2017
- e) Waves TO DATE 1-63, September 25, 2017
- f) Waves TO DATE 1-16, September 25, 2017

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