

# 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.**

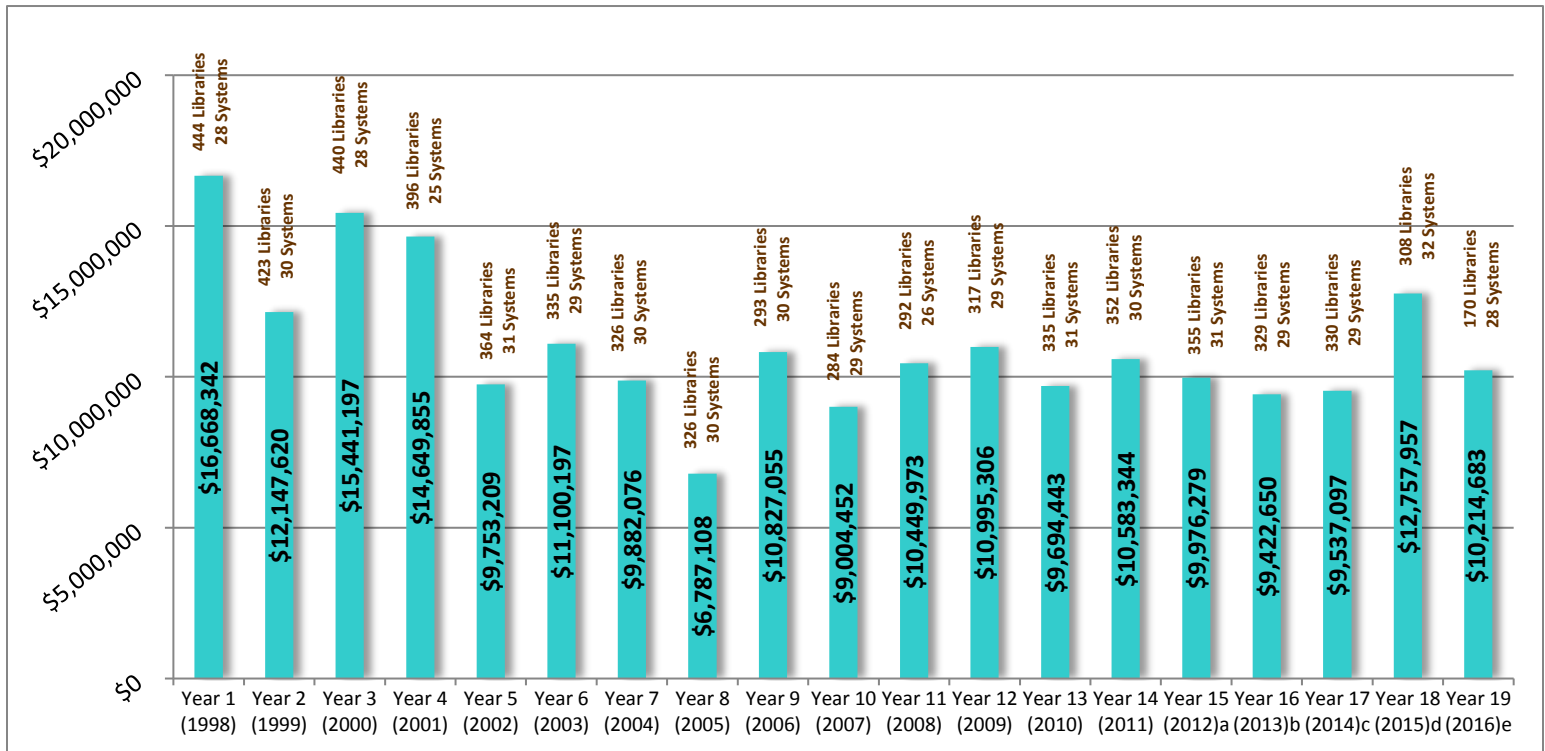


## How does the E-Rate Program help New York State Libraries?

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 (1-18), an average total of 376 libraries and library systems in New York State, with a yearly average of \$11.1 million, received a grand total of \$199.6 million from the E-Rate Program. New York's libraries have received over \$10 million, as of March 2017, for Program Year 19 (2016). 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 1-19 (1998-2016)



a) Waves TO DATE 1-122, March 30, 2017  
 b) Waves TO DATE 1-121, March 30, 2017  
 c) Waves TO DATE 1-97, March 30, 2017  
 d) Waves TO DATE 1-74, March 30, 2017  
 e) Waves TO DATE 1-40, March 30, 2017