

Viewpoints

U.S. Supreme Court Upholds Funding Mechanism for E-rate Program for Schools



Schools will continue to be able to apply for federal internet and technology discounts. On Friday, the Supreme Court decided in *FCC v. Consumers' Research* that the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) may continue to use the Universal Service Administrative Co. (USAC), a private nonprofit company created by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), to administer universal service programs and assist it in "projecting revenues and expenses [for universal service programs], so that carriers pay the needed amount." One program the USAC administers is the E-rate program, which is a multibillion-dollar program that provides internet and technology discounts for schools and libraries.

This decision preserves important E-rate funding for schools, which consider the funding vital to providing internet and technology access to students. Had the Court decided differently, it could have upended how the E-rate program is run. In 2022-24, more than 106,00 schools received E-rate funding, providing internet services for more than 54 million students.



Professionals



Gretchen M. Shipley

Partner

San Diego

760.304.6015

gshipley@f3law.com