

that they have prepared any required technology plans. They must also confirm, in FCC Form 486, that their plan was approved before they began receiving services pursuant to it.

(d) *Parties qualified to approve technology plans required in this subpart.* Applicants required to prepare and obtain approval of technology plans under this subpart must obtain such approval from either their state, the Administrator, or an independent entity approved by the Commission or certified by the Administrator as qualified to provide such approval. All parties who will provide such approval must apply the standards set forth in paragraphs (a) and (b) of this section.

[75 FR 75415, Dec. 3, 2010]

§ 54.509 Adjustments to the discount matrix.

(a) *Estimating future spending requests.* When submitting their requests for specific amounts of funding for a funding year, schools, libraries, library consortia, and consortia including such entities shall also estimate their funding requests for the following funding year to enable the Administrator, to estimate funding demand for the following year.

(b) Reduction in percentage discounts. At all times other than within a filing period described in § 54.507(c), if the estimates schools and libraries make of their future funding needs lead the Administrator to predict that total funding request for a funding year will exceed the available funding, the Administrator shall calculate the percentage reduction to all schools and libraries, except those in the two most disadvantaged categories, necessary to permit all requests in the next funding year to be fully funded.

(c) *Remaining funds.* If funds remain under the cap at the end of the funding year in which discounts have been reduced below those set in the matrices, the Administrator shall consult with the Commission to establish the best way to distribute those funds.

[62 FR 32948, June 17, 1997, as amended at 62 FR 41304, Aug. 1, 1997; 63 FR 70572, Dec. 21, 1998; 69 FR 6191, Feb. 10, 2004]

§ 54.511 Ordering services.

(a) *Selecting a provider of eligible services.* In selecting a provider of eligible services, schools, libraries, library consortia, and consortia including any of those entities shall carefully consider all bids submitted and must select the most cost-effective service offering. In determining which service offering is the most cost-effective, entities may consider relevant factors other than the pre-discount prices submitted by providers, but price should be the primary factor considered.

(b) *Lowest corresponding price.* Providers of eligible services shall not charge schools, school districts, libraries, library consortia, or consortia including any of these entities a price above the lowest corresponding price for supported services, unless the Commission, with respect to interstate services or the state commission with respect to intrastate services, finds that the lowest corresponding price is not compensatory. Promotional rates offered by a service provider for a period of more than 90 days must be included among the comparable rates upon which the lowest corresponding price is determined.

(c) *Existing contracts.* (1) A signed contract for services eligible for discounts pursuant to this subpart between an eligible school or library as defined under § 54.501 or consortium that includes an eligible school or library and a service provider shall be exempt from the requirements set forth in § 54.503 as follows:

(i) A contract signed on or before July 10, 1997 is exempt from the competitive bid requirements for the life of the contract; or

(ii) A contract signed after July 10, 1997, but before the date on which the universal service competitive bid system described in § 54.503 is operational, is exempt from the competitive bid requirements only with respect to services that are provided under such contract between January 1, 1998 and December 31, 1998.

(2) For a school, library, or consortium that includes an eligible school or library that takes service under or pursuant to a master contract, the date of execution of that master contract represents the applicable date for purposes

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of determining whether and to what extent the school, library, or consortium is exempt from the competitive bid requirements.

(d)(1) The exemption from the competitive bid requirements set forth in paragraph (c) of this section shall not apply to voluntary extensions or renewals of existing contracts.

(2) For the 1998-1999 funding year, a contract exempt from the competitive bid requirement, as described in paragraph (c) of this section, may be voluntarily extended to September 30, 1999 only to the extent necessary to permit delivery of the nonrecurring services subject to that contract and for which discounts have been approved.

[62 FR 32948, June 17, 1997, as amended at 63 FR 2130, Jan. 13, 1998; 63 FR 33586, June 19, 1998; 63 FR 43097, Aug. 12, 1998; 63 FR 70572, Dec. 21, 1998; 64 FR 22810, Apr. 28, 1999; 68 FR 36942, June 20, 2003; 75 FR 75415, Dec. 3, 2010]

§ 54.513 Resale and transfer of services.

(a) *Prohibition on resale.* Eligible supported services provided at a discount under this subpart shall not be sold, resold, or transferred in consideration of money or any other thing of value, except as provided in paragraph (b) of this section.

(b) *Disposal of obsolete equipment components of eligible services.* Eligible equipment components of eligible services purchased at a discount under this subpart shall be considered obsolete if the equipment components have been installed for at least five years. Obsolete equipment components of eligible services may be resold or transferred in consideration of money or any other thing of value, disposed of, donated, or traded.

(c) *Permissible fees.* This prohibition on resale shall not bar schools, school districts, libraries, and library consortia from charging either computer lab fees or fees for classes in how to navigate over the Internet. There is no prohibition on the resale of services that are not purchased pursuant to the discounts provided in this subpart.

(d) Eligible services and equipment components of eligible services purchased at a discount under this subpart shall not be transferred, with or without consideration of money or any

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other thing of value, for a period of three years after purchase, except that eligible services and equipment components of eligible services may be transferred to another eligible school or library in the event that the particular location where the service originally was received is permanently or temporarily closed. If an eligible service or equipment component of a service is transferred due to the permanent or temporary closure of a school or library, the transferor must notify the Administrator of the transfer, and both the transferor and recipient must maintain detailed records documenting the transfer and the reason for the transfer for a period of five years.

[62 FR 32948, June 17, 1997, as amended at 69 FR 6191, Feb. 10, 2004; 75 FR 75415, Dec. 3, 2010]

§ 54.514 Payment for discounted service.

(a) *Choice of payment method.* Service providers providing discounted services under this subpart in any funding year shall, prior to the submission the Form 471, permit the billed entity to choose the method of payment for the discounted services from those methods approved by the Administrator, including by making a full, undiscounted payment and receiving subsequent reimbursement of the discount amount from the service provider.

(b) *Deadline for remittance of reimbursement checks.* Service providers that receive discount reimbursement checks from the Administrator after having received full payment from the billed entity must remit the discount amount to the billed entity no later than 20 business days after receiving the reimbursement check.

[68 FR 36942, June 20, 2003]

§ 54.515 Distributing support.

(a) A telecommunications carrier providing services eligible for support under this subpart to eligible schools and libraries may, at the election of the carrier, treat the amount eligible for support under this subpart as an offset against the carrier's universal service contribution obligation for the year in which the costs for providing