



NEWS BRIEF

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E-rate Commitments Issued Faster Than Previous Years

EDMOND, OKLA. (March 13, 2008) – Schools and libraries are able to experience the benefits of the E-rate program sooner than in years past, according to a new report issued by Funds For Learning. After examining information from E-rate Funding Years 2005, 2006, and 2007, the report found that The Schools and Libraries Division of the Universal Service Administrative Company (SLD) is issuing E-rate funding commitments more efficiently, and disbursing E-rate funds at a faster rate.

Research shows that during the first 12 months after the close of the Form 471 Filing Window, the SLD increased its issuance of funding commitments from one year to the next. The amount of funding committed increased from an average of \$85 million per month for Funding Year 2005, to more than \$110 million per month in Funding Year 2007.

Furthermore, when comparing the pace of E-rate disbursements for the first six months of the same funding years, research found that the SLD is disbursing funds at a faster rate than each previous year. In the first six months of Funding Year 2005, the SLD authorized just over \$54 million in disbursements. In the same period for Funding Year 2007, that number grew to more than \$141 million, which represents an increase of 161 percent.

For more information on Funds For Learning, visit www.FundsForLearning.com.

About Funds For Learning

Funds For Learning, LLC, is an E-rate compliance firm specializing in guiding E-rate applicants and service providers through the complex and ever-changing E-rate regulatory process. With more than 10 years of experience in providing professional advice and assistance relating to the E-rate program, Funds For Learning exists to provide high-quality solutions for the needs of E-rate stakeholders. The company was established in 1997 and is headquartered in Edmond, Okla. For more information, visit www.FundsForLearning.com or phone 405-341-4140.

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