

TO: Oregon Public Charter Schools and Authorizers

FROM: Kate Pattison, Charter School Specialist
Amy McLaughlin, Director of Support Systems

RE: Public Charter Schools and E-Rate

Charter Schools are authorized to operate as public schools in Oregon by legislatively approved sponsor entities. Most public charter schools are authorized by local school district boards and operate subject to the terms of the charter contract negotiated and agreed to by the charter school governing board and the sponsor governing board. The contract identifies the terms of the charter school operation and responsibilities. All public charter schools in Oregon must follow applicable federal and state laws listed in ORS 338.115, as well as any other terms included in the charter contract or charter school policy. It is the responsibility of the charter school governing board to ensure all applicable laws are followed. The sponsor governing board is responsible for oversight and accountability for the charter school. Public charter schools are generally considered to be component schools within their district, however, there are some flexibilities depending on the program. Districts and public charter schools should exercise flexibility when determining how to apply for e-Rate.

In Oregon, each public charter school and sponsor relationship and contract may be different, each public charter school and district should individually determine when to include the public charter school in the district's e-Rate application. If the public charter school meets any of the following criteria, the public charter school may apply for e-Rate independently from the district in which it is located and the district is not required to add the public charter school to their e-Rate Application:

- The public charter school is its own fiscal agent.
- The public charter school does not receive internet and/or telecommunication services through the district as part of the charter contract or other contract for services.
- The public charter school has previously applied for and been granted its own e-Rate discount OR the public charter school has NOT applied (as the Billed Entity) for the e-Rate program in the past.

For questions about e-Rate, please contact Amy McLaughlin at amy.mclaughlin@state.or.us

For questions about public charter schools, please contact Kate Pattison at kate.pattison@state.or.us