

All Things E-Rate

Show me the Money!

SPI or BEAR

SPI – **S**ervice **P**rovider Invoice

Bills are discounted at your E-Rate discount rate

- Service Provider invoices USAC for funded eligible equipment/services
- If SPI not paid Service Provider will expect payment from you!
- Carefully check discounted bills to ensure all eligible items discounted
- You have the option to require approval before SPIs are paid
- SPI billing does not exempt schools from E-Rate/ECF liability into perpetuity

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BEAR – Billed Entity Applicant Reimbursement (form)

Bills are not discounted

- When service is delivered and paid schools can invoice USAC
- If BEAR is not paid you must take action
- Carefully check that only delivered equipment/services are invoiced
- USAC may require an invoice review before payment
- BEAR billing does not exempt schools from E-Rate/ECF liability into perpetuity

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Do I need a Consultant?

Most Divisions have consultants

Why? So many moving parts, deadlines, bureaucratic requirements.

- Consultant can be central location for all paperwork
- Consultant should retain paperwork forever
- Consultant can help maximize (to a degree) funding/discounts
- Consultant should ensure competitive bidding compliance
- What to look out for? Too good to be true promises, guaranteed funding, steering to certain vendors, fee based on application size rather than funding.

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Any Suggestions?

E-Rate Central (My old firm) Melissa Zaruba is still in Richmond
e-ratecentral.com

Funds For Learning
fundsforlearning.com

Cindy Johnson, E-Rate Services
919-353-1723

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