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Bureau Offers E-Rate Guidance for Charter Schools, Remote Learning

The FCC's Wireline Competition Bureau today told schools planning to apply for E-rate category two (in-school connections) support under the district-wide budgets effective beginning in funding year 2021 that charter schools that under state law are part of a school district may demonstrate financial and administrative independence from the school district in order to have their own separate category two budget and discount rate. It also explained how to count part-time students at independent schools under the district-wide budgets. The guidance released today in a public notice in WC docket 13-184 also stated that, "[i]n light of the number of schools implementing plans to offer instruction to some or all students via remote learning on a full- or part-time basis due to COVID-19, we clarify that students enrolled at brick and mortar schools should be counted as full-time students regardless of whether they receive some or all instruction via remote learning during the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic."

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