

E-Rate Network Readiness Checklist

Is your district's network ready for E-Rate and for what your students actually need?

Use this checklist to self-assess your network before the next E-Rate filing window. Each section covers a key area of readiness. Check off what's in place and flag what isn't. A Vision Net specialist can help you close the gaps.

01	Network Infrastructure
	Our core switching and routing equipment is less than 7 years old.
	Our network diagram is current and documents every campus, building, and major connection point.
	Our WAN connection is dedicated, not shared with residential customers.
	Our provider has a written SLA with defined uptime guarantees.
	We know our contracted bandwidth, circuit type, and contract expiration date.
	Our infrastructure can support a fiber-based upgrade without full interior rewiring.

02	Bandwidth Requirements
	We meet or exceed 1 Mbps per student (CoSN/FCC minimum).
	Our network handles simultaneous video conferencing, LMS access, and cloud-based testing.
	Our current device counts by building and grade level are documented.
	Our 3–5 year growth plan accounts for new devices, programs, and enrollment changes.
	Our network can support AI-assisted learning tools, VR, or other bandwidth-intensive programs.
	We collect stakeholder input from teachers and administrators to inform connectivity planning.

03	Security, Redundancy & Resilience
	Our cybersecurity plan covers student data, network access, and incident response.
	We have CIPA-compliant content filtering in place (required for E-Rate Category 1).
	Our backup or failover connection activates automatically when the primary circuit fails.
	Our student data is segmented from staff and administrative network traffic.
	Our disaster recovery and business continuity plan for network outages is documented.
	We conduct regular network security audits or vulnerability assessments.

04	Provider Support
	Our provider has a local or regional NOC that monitors our connection 24/7.
	We can reach a live support person, not just a ticketing portal, during outages.
	Our provider has demonstrated E-Rate project experience and knows the filing process.
	Our provider offers dedicated account management, with one contact who knows our district.
	Our provider's infrastructure is fiber-based and built to scale as our needs grow.
	Our contract terms are flexible enough to accommodate E-Rate funding cycle timing.

Education

SOLUTIONS

From fiber connectivity to cybersecurity, Vision Net delivers what Montana K-12 districts need.

OUR SERVICES

- Dedicated Internet Access
- Managed AI Wi-Fi
- SD-WAN and Enterprise Network
- Cybersecurity and Compliance
- Cloud Voice
- Data Center and Colocation
- 24/7 Montana-Based NOC

E-RATE COMMITTED

Vision Net is a proud E-Rate service provider. We guide Montana K-12 districts through the application process from Form 470 to FCDL.

SCORE GUIDE

Network-Ready

● 18–24

Gaps to Address

● 12–17

Start Here

● <12

NOT SURE WHERE TO START?

Vision Net can help. Schedule a free 20-minute network assessment.

vision.net/contact-us/
(866) 334-8638



30+

Years Serving Montana



99.99%

Network Uptime SLA



800G

Backbone Capacity