

Schools & Libraries – Non-instructional Facilities

What is a non-instructional facility?

The 1996 Telecommunications Act states that services requested by schools and libraries must be used for “educational purposes,” meaning “activities... integral, immediate, and proximate to the education of students, or... the provision of library services” in school, classrooms, and libraries. In 2003, the FCC 2nd Order expanded the scope of “educational purposes” to allow funding for certain services at onsite “non-instructional facilities” that are also “integral, immediate and proximate” to student education or library services and — *in limited cases* — at certain offsite non-instructional facilities as well.

What non-instructional facilities are eligible for discounts?

Examples of onsite non-instructional facilities for schools include administrative buildings, school bus barns and garages, school food service facilities, and facilities associated with athletic activities. Examples of non-instructional facilities for libraries include administrative buildings, bookmobile garages, interlibrary loan facilities, and library technology centers.

- Priority I services (telecommunications and Internet access) provided to onsite non-instructional facilities are eligible for Universal Service Fund support.
- Priority II services (internal connections) for onsite non-instructional facilities are not eligible for Universal Service Fund support *unless* they are essential for the effective transport of information to an instructional building of a school or to a non-administrative building of a library.

In certain limited circumstances, telecommunications services used offsite may also be eligible.

- Examples of services delivered offsite that are eligible for Universal Service Fund support include mobile telephone services used by (1) a school bus driver delivering children to and from school, (2) a librarian in a bookmobile, or (3) a teacher accompanying students on a field trip or sporting event.
- Internet access services used offsite, including e-mail services, are not eligible for Universal Service Fund support.

What non-instructional facilities require an entity number?

A non-instructional facility does not need a separate Entity Number if it is on the same campus as a school or library and access to the facility does not cross a public right of way. Applicants should use the Entity Number of the school or library and then provide the non-instructional facility’s name, location and services received on the Item 21 attachment for the funding request.

A non-instructional facility serving multiple schools or libraries (such as a district-wide kitchen) must have its own Entity Number beginning in Funding Year 2005.

A non-instructional facility that is physically separate from the rest of the school or library and that does not serve an entire district (such as a stadium located on the outskirts of town) must have an Entity Number beginning in Funding Year 2005.

Note: An administrative office or wing in a school or library is not considered a separate non-instructional facility.

For additional information, please use the USAC resources listed below:

Non-instructional Facilities: <http://www.usac.org/sl/applicants/step05/non-instructional-facilities.aspx>
Examples of Facilities: <http://www.usac.org/sl/applicants/step06/educational-purposes.aspx>
FCC 2nd Order (FCC 03-101): <http://www.usac.org/res/documents/sl/pdf/FCC-03-101.pdf>