



The Gaggle

Bringing You a Gaggle of News

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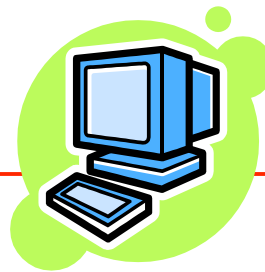
Let E-Rate Pay for Your Gaggle Accounts

Up to 90% off the cost of your Gaggle subscription! Isn't it time for some good financial news? Today's economic woes could cause future issues for many public schools, and unfortunately, technology sometimes falls victim to budget cuts. But even when budgets are tight, Gaggle can be an easily affordable tool for student achievement.

The Schools and Libraries Program and the Universal Service Fund, more commonly known as "Erate," provides discounts and monetary assistance to schools and districts for communication and technology. The purpose of the Erate program is to enable all schools to have access to these services for their students. Funding for Erate can be requested under four categories of service: Telecommunications Services, Internet Access, Internal Connections, and Basic Maintenance of Internal Connections. The Gaggle service must be requested under the "Internet Access" portion of your school's application in order for it to be eligible.

Discounts and monetary assistance from Erate is dependent on your student population's socio-economic status and the urban/rural status of the population of your community. Discounts can range from 20% to 90% of the cost of eligible services. This means your school could pay as little as 10% for your Gaggle accounts. Schools can apply for Erate individually or as part of a larger district.

The Erate program is a wonderful solution for many school districts and allows them to afford the tools necessary to provide their students a 21st century education. If you are looking for a way to fund your school or district's Gaggle accounts, we encourage you to apply for Erate funding. You can visit the Schools and Libraries Division (SLD) website for more information on applying (<http://www.universalservice.org/sli/>).



Free vs. Subscription

Gaggle's free accounts have most of the same features as our subscription accounts, but the few differences can really make a purchase worthwhile! Subscription accounts have 100mb of storage, instead of 2.5 on the free version. There are no popup or banner ads that may distract students. And our new Homework Drop Boxes are only available for our subscription customers. In addition, you will have a personal Account Rep to help with setting your defaults, creating your accounts, and providing training and support.

Erate Process

File Form 470 – Applicants file this form to indicate which services they would like to receive funding for. Again, Gaggle is eligible for funding under "Internet Access." The SLD is currently accepting Form 470 applications for the 09/10 school year. To begin, visit the SLD website.

File Form 471 – This form identifies which vendors were selected to fulfill each request from the Form 470. The last day to file a Form 471 is typically in mid to late February. Schools must wait a minimum of 28 days after filing a Form 470 before they can file a Form 471, to allow competitive bids for services.

Receive Funding Commitment Decision Letter (FCDL) – Once a Form 471 is filed, the SLD will review the requests and decide on funding

File Form 486 – Once funding is approved, file a Form 486 to indicate to the SLD that services have started with the chosen vendors.

Please don't hesitate to contact Gaggle's Sales or Customer Service staff if you have any questions! 800-288-7750 admin@gaggle.net



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