



Education Solutions | Connected School Buses

An Overview of Recent E-Rate Funding Updates for School Bus Wi-Fi and Cellular Connectivity

As public school districts nationwide develop post-pandemic academic strategies, evolving technology and expanded funding opportunities have been instrumental in bridging the digital divide. Initiatives such as the CARES Act and the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Emergency Connectivity Fund allocated billions to help schools and libraries equip students with connected devices and broadband access, addressing the challenges of remote learning.

Now, with the FCC's recent approval to apply E-Rate funds toward school bus Wi-Fi projects, districts gain a powerful tool to further close the homework gap. This new funding enables schools to extend learning beyond the classroom, providing students—especially those in underserved areas—equitable access to critical online educational resources.



Benefits of Mobile Networking Solutions for K-12 Applications

Distance Learning On the Go

Bus Wi-Fi ensures students stay connected to online LMS resources, enabling seamless learning during commutes.

Remote Access for Video Monitoring

Video connected through mobile networks enable real-time remote monitoring for student safety.*

CIPA-Compliant and Secure Wi-Fi

Onboard Wi-Fi networks allow students to access filtered internet content to enhance study and homework time during commutes.**

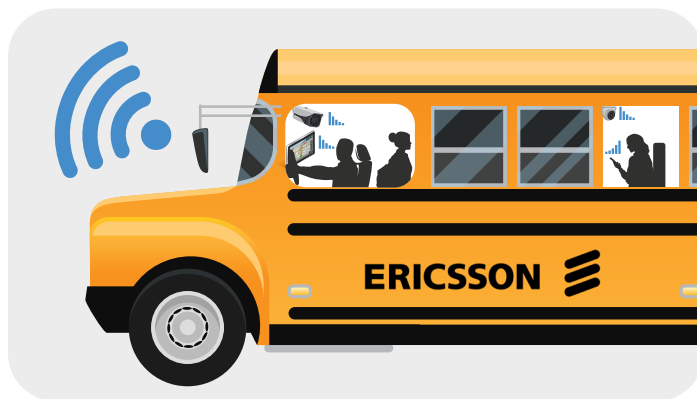
Mobile Hubs for Community Wi-Fi

Wi-Fi-equipped buses parked in areas with limited student internet access offer students convenient study opportunities.***

E-Rate Eligible School Bus Wi-Fi Solutions from MCA

Initiating connectivity is simple and seamless. Choose the ideal solution for your network size and budget, and MCA will handle the rest. We'll provision, pre-activate, kit, ship, and even install, all the necessary components to ensure your school buses are operational on the network.

- Swift order processing and device shipping
- Optional installation and activation of SIM cards
- Ongoing and incident-based support packages



Ericsson R1900

- Modem: Cat 20 LTE / 5G
- Wi-Fi: 2 x 2 (Wi-Fi 6) & 1 Bluetooth
- GNSS/GPS: Yes, w/Dead Reckoning
- VPN Tunnels: 10
- Ethernet Ports: 4
- Wi-Fi Users: 100



Ericsson R980

- Modem: Cat 19 LTE / 5G
- Wi-Fi: 2 x 2 (Wi-Fi 6)
- GNSS/GPS: Yes
- VPN Tunnels: 20
- Ethernet Ports: 2
- Wi-Fi Users: 50



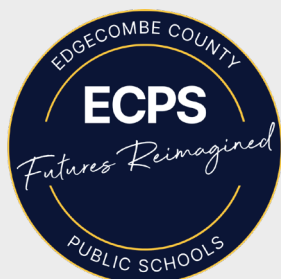
Ericsson R920

- Modem: Cat 7 LTE
- Wi-Fi: 2x2 (Wi-Fi 6)
- GNSS/GPS: Yes
- VPN Tunnels: 20
- Ethernet Ports: 2
- Wi-Fi Users: 30

About MCA

MCA is one of the largest and most trusted technology integrators in the United States, offering world-class voice, data, and security solutions that enhance the quality, safety, and productivity of customers, operations, and lives. More than 65,000 customers trust MCA to provide carefully researched solutions for a safe, secure, and more efficient workplace.

Our Cellular Networking Solutions (CNS) team, delivers end-to-end school bus mobility solutions nationwide, from design and deployment to training, system audits, and on-site RF surveys. Our partnership with T-Mobile, coupled with our extensive Ericsson product catalog, featuring robust routers, gateways, and remote management software, supports reliable connectivity in remote environments and under harsh conditions—all backed by our service-first DNA.



"Edgecombe is a rural school district with bus routes being as long as an hour plus for many of our students. Providing students with wi-fi on buses has allowed students the ability to complete classwork and homework while traveling to and from school."

Joseph Hayes
Technology Director

T-Mobile

We proudly partner with T-Mobile, Recognized as the most available 5G network worldwide by Opensignal, and consistently topping performance metrics in Ookla's Speedtest reports, T-Mobile's 5G network continues to set the standard for excellence in 5G connectivity.

*E-Rate-funded SIMs and routers may support video monitoring under the program's 10% ancillary use allowance as outlined by USAC. Any usage beyond this limit requires separate cost allocation **E-Rate does not provide CIPA compliance directly. Schools are responsible for configuring their network or using carrier services (e.g., T-Mobile) to ensure CIPA compliance. ***E-Rate funding limits Wi-Fi access strictly to students and staff, prohibiting public or non-student use.