

E-rate And Internet Options on BadgerNet

Frequently Asked Questions

(Version 2.0 — May 2, 2017)

Note: Version 2.0 includes substantive updates to questions Q4, Q6, Q10 and Q12 and updated introductory information on Option 2.

The following FAQ addresses common questions schools and libraries have on how they will receive 2017 E-rate Internet discounts on the new BadgerNet network. This FAQ is a collaborative effort between AT&T, the Department of Administration's TEACH program, the Department of Public Instruction and WiscNet. This document will be revised and updated as needed.

This FAQ assumes your school or library already has a BadgerNet circuit which is used to transport your institution's Internet traffic. And it is highly likely this circuit is supported by the state's TEACH program (<http://www.teachwi.state.wi.us/>). If you have any questions on this, contact TEACH at: teach@wisconsin.gov.

Internet access options on the new BadgerNet

Q1: What Internet access providers are available under the new BadgerNet network?

A1: There are three options for Internet service:

1. AT&T's MIS (Managed Internet Service) on BadgerNet
2. AT&T's WiscNet on BadgerNet
3. Local telephone company

The third option is referenced in question Q2 below. The remainder of this FAQ focuses on the first two options: AT&T's MIS on BadgerNet and AT&T's WiscNet on BadgerNet.

Explanation of Internet service option #3

Q2: Can you provide more information on option #3, Internet access from my local telephone company?

A2: This option is basically the same as what was available under the old BadgerNet contract. It is more applicable in rural areas of the state that are served by smaller phone companies. In brief, you will continue to have a BadgerNet transport circuit, likely subsidized by TEACH. The local phone company will then take your school or library's Internet traffic and make the necessary technical connections to ensure that it gets routed to the appropriate location(s) on the Internet. For E-rate purposes you need to file a Form 470 for Internet access. The cost for this service and any other details will be in the quote you receive from your local phone company. You will also need to evaluate any quotes received from other providers and then —

following the E-rate rules — select an Internet provider. If you select your local phone company you will need to negotiate any required contract or other type of service agreement and include this when filing your Form 471. (There are no negotiations on Internet options 1 and 2.) It is the phone company's option whether to respond to your Form 470.

Explanation and cost of Internet service for options #1 and #2

Q3: Can you provide more information on options #1 and #2?

A3: These two Internet service options—AT&T's MIS (Managed Internet Service) on BadgerNet and WiscNet on BadgerNet—are offered by AT&T which is the prime contractor for the new BadgerNet network. Assuming no changes to the BadgerNet contract, these two Internet options will be available until the end of the contract on January 31, 2024.

Q4: What are the costs for Internet options #1 and #2 on the new BadgerNet network and will I get a cost quote for these options?

A4: For costs see the BadgerNet [Internet pricing Rate Sheet](#). The costs for AT&T's MIS on BadgerNet are on p. 3 of the Rate Sheet. Costs for WiscNet on BadgerNet are on pages 6 - 8. It is important to realize that these costs become effective *after* your school or library migrates to the new BadgerNet network. Assuming your school or library filed a Form 470 for Internet service AT&T will provide you with a cost quote for both Internet options based on the Rate Sheet.

- *Cost quote **after** migration:* If you do not receive a quote by April 27 for the cost of Internet service after you migrate to the new BadgerNet network, then contact Rob Roy at AT&T (rr3914@att.com).
- *Cost quote **before** migration:* If you do not receive a quote by April 27 for the cost of Internet service before you migrate to the new BadgerNet network, then contact your current provider.

May 2 Update: AT&T believes it has sent out cost quotes in response to the form 470s filed by WI schools and districts. But if you have not yet received a quote you need **to immediately contact Rob Roy at** RR3914@att.com.

To minimize loss of E-rate funding you will need cost quotes for the periods both before and after your school or library migrates to the new BadgerNet. Below is more information on costs.

- *Costs for schools and school districts:* Under the new BadgerNet contract the cost for both Internet service options is on the Rate Sheet (p. 3) and is based on your district's official DPI student enrollment for 2015-16. Costs are not based on bandwidth. Your Internet access bandwidth will be the same as your BadgerNet bandwidth. For example, if you are scheduled to receive 1Gbps of BadgerNet bandwidth, you will also receive 1Gbps of Internet access bandwidth.
- *Costs for libraries and library systems:* Under the new contract the WiscNet on BadgerNet pricing for libraries and library systems is provided on pages 6-7 in the Rate Sheet. AT&T MIS on BadgerNet pricing is on page 3 of the Rate Sheet and is based on

the school district enrollment in the community where the library is located. Your Internet access bandwidth will be the same as your BadgerNet bandwidth.

The E-rate and Internet access options #1 and #2 on the new BadgerNet network

Q5: In general, how will the new BadgerNet contract and its two Internet options impact our E-rate filing for Internet access in 2017?

A5: It is important to realize that it is **not** possible to migrate all 760 TEACH school and library customers to the new BadgerNet network exactly on July 1 to sync with the start of the E-rate funding year. Related to this, here are three important factors that will impact your 2017 E-rate application filing for Internet service.

1. For every BadgerNet site there is a migration or cutover process to the new BadgerNet network. This started February 1 and is scheduled to be completed by December 31. As part of this process technicians will visit every site to implement the needed changes to the new network.
2. Most schools and libraries will **not be migrated by the July 1, 2017, start of the E-rate funding year.**
3. Most schools and libraries will **not know their migration date by the May 11, 2017, Form 471 filing deadline.** In other words, you will very likely not know when your school or library will migrate from your current Internet service (likely WiscNet) under the old BadgerNet contract to the new WiscNet over BadgerNet service or AT&T MIS on BadgerNet.

Q6: If we are not migrated until after July 1 but we don't know the specific date of our migration by the Form 471 filing deadline, how do we complete the application process for Internet discounts for the July 1, 2017, E-rate funding year?

A6: This is a complex issue. For example, if your migration date is October 1, you'll be under the old BadgerNet contract from July 1 to September 30, and then under the new contract as of October 1. As part of completing the Form 471 there are three options to address this issue.

- Option 1: File a single Funding Request and then file for a SPIN (i.e., service provider) change after migration.
- Option 2: File two Funding Requests — One request for the pre-migration time period and a second request for the post-migration time.
- Option 3: File a single Funding Request for the post-migration time.

May 2 Update: DPI recommends Option 2, but ultimately which option you select is a local decision.

These options are explained in more detail below and at the end of option #3 is a table summarizing the options. We recommend schools and libraries give first consideration to the SPIN change option but it is important for applicants to review all three options and select the one best fitting their circumstances.

Option 1: File a single Funding Request and then file for a SPIN change

- Pros: This option is intended to minimize or possibly eliminate the loss of E-rate funding. The SLD will be notified that many districts may be doing SPIN changes which will, hopefully, make the process easier.
- Cons: SPIN changes are closely scrutinized by E-rate's Program Integrity Assurance (PIA) unit. They are often only approved (or denied) many months after they are submitted.

Q7: How does filing one Funding Request and then filing for a SPIN change work?

A7: You will file one Funding Request (aka FRN, Funding Request Number) listing your Internet provider as of July 1 and citing the 470 you filed seeking Internet access on your 471. Assuming your provider is WiscNet then after your school or library's migration occurs, you will file an Operational SPIN change request to change to AT&T as the provider under the new BadgerNet contract. (The reason AT&T is listed as the provider, even if WiscNet is offering the Internet service, is explained below.) The process and the exact steps needed to request a SPIN change are explained on the SLD's website at: <http://www.universalservice.org/sl/applicants/before-youre-done/spin-changes/operational-changes.aspx>. The DPI will notify the SLD that there may be a significant number of SPIN change requests from our schools and libraries. We will also propose to the SLD a procedure to streamline the SPIN change process.

Q8: Which Form 470 do we use for the SPIN change option?

A8: You must have filed your own 470 for Internet access and you need to cite this Form 470 on the Form 471. (If you did not file a Form 470 you can still file for E-rate using Option #3.) It is important to note that if you receive more than one bid response to your 470 you must conduct an evaluation process to select the best Internet provider. This evaluation process has always been part of the E-rate rules and more information is at <http://www.universalservice.org/sl/applicants/step02/default.aspx>. There is no need to attach the evaluation documentation to your Form 471 but PIA may request to see it as part of the Form 471 application review process.

Q9: When do we file for a SPIN change?

A9: A SPIN change request cannot be made until after you receive a Funding Commitment Decision Letter (FCDL) and after your school/library migrates to the new BadgerNet. The end date for SPIN requests is October 28, 2018. The DPI will provide more information on this process at a later date. Until more information is available we advise schools and libraries not to apply for a SPIN change.

Option 2: File two Funding Requests

May 2 Update: DPI recommends this option. The department has reached an agreement with USAC to enable applicants to file two funding requests even when migration dates are not known. After schools and libraries migrate to the new BadgerNet DPI will send USAC each school and library's actual date in which service ended for the first funding request and the date service started for the second funding request. USAC will then retroactively adjust your

start and end dates accordingly. *For both funding requests we recommend a service start date of July 1, 2017 and a service end date of June 30, 2018.*

- Pros: This option is intended to minimize the loss of E-rate funds. Assuming the great majority of migrations to the new BadgerNet network occur by September 1, most applicants should not lose more than 1-2 months of funding.
- Cons: As can be seen in the following questions, this option is more complex than options #1 and #3.

Q10: How does filing two Funding Requests work?

A10: With this option you file one FRN for a month-to-month service quoted by your current provider and using their SPIN that covers the assumed pre-migration time period of July 1 – Sept. 30, 2017. (If you do not receive a pre-migration cost quote by April 27, contact your current provider.) This will be part of the old BadgerNet and for most schools the Internet provider for this time period will be WiscNet. You will also file a second FRN in the same Form 471 that covers the time period from October 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018. This will be part of the new BadgerNet contract. The Internet provider for this time period will be AT&T and you will select the actual Internet service as either AT&T MIS on BadgerNet or WiscNet on BadgerNet. (The reason AT&T will be listed as the Internet provider on Form 471 is explained below.)

May 2 Update: WiscNet believes it has sent out cost quotes to all its members and in response to the form 470s filed by WI schools and district. But if you have not yet received a quote you need **to immediately contact the WiscNet E-rate Team at info@wiscnet.net.**

Q11: Which Form 470s do we use for the two FRNs?

A11: For the first FRN you must have filed your own 470 for Internet access and you need to cite this Form 470 on the Form 471. (If you did not file a Form 470 you can still file for E-rate using Option #3.) It is important to note that if you receive more than one response to your 470 you must conduct an evaluation process to select the best Internet provider (see <http://www.universalservice.org/sl/applicants/step02/default.aspx>). For the second FRN you must cite the DOA/TEACH Form 470 identification number (#891980001346160) that was filed to start the process to procure the new BadgerNet contract.

Q12: You say above that it is possible that my school or library might lose 1-2 months of E-rate funding. Why is this?

May 2 Update: Even with USAC adjusting an applicant's service start and end dates because of the way USAC's internal processes work, applicants will lose one month of E-rate discounts and in a small number of situations perhaps two months.

A12: A loss of funding may occur because of the uncertainty of your migration date to the new BadgerNet network. For example, if on the second FRN you list a service Start date of October 1 and your migration happens September 1, you will lose E-rate funds for the month of

September. One way to eliminate loss of E-rate funds is to enter a July 1 start date and a June 30, 2018, end date for *both* FRNs. However, during the application review process this will be seen as receiving duplicative services which are not allowed in the E-rate program. So the tradeoff here is: Do you want to possibly lose a month or two of funding or deal with likely onerous inquiries from E-rate's Program Integrity Assurance (PIA) unit on why you appeared to have applied for duplicative services?

Q13: Under this option for the second FRN how do we select one of the above two Internet service options under the new BadgerNet contract?

A13: For the second FRN your school or library will get an E-rate bid offer from AT&T showing the costs for the two Internet service options: (1) AT&T's MIS on BadgerNet, and (2) WiscNet on BadgerNet. (If you do not receive a cost quote by April 27, contact Rob Roy at AT&T rr3914@att.com.) Because there are two Internet providers under the new BadgerNet contract you must conduct a mini-bid following SLD guidelines at <http://www.universalservice.org/sl/applicants/step02/state-master-contracts.aspx>. Be sure to document in writing the process you used to select either Internet service option. Also include who in your school or library participated in the decision making process (e.g., business manager, technology director, etc.). Then file this documentation with your other E-rate materials. There is no need to attach it to your Form 471 although PIA may request to see it as part of the application review process. Following the mini-bid, then on the Form 471 enter the cost for the Internet option you selected — either AT&T's MIS on BadgerNet or WiscNet on BadgerNet — and list AT&T (SPIN: 143001192) as the provider.

Q14: For the second Funding Request what entity is listed on the Form 471 as the actual Internet provider and what 470 do I cite?

A14: Whether you choose AT&T MIS on BadgerNet or choose WiscNet on BadgerNet as your Internet service, *you will file the Form 471 listing AT&T Corporation as the provider* (SPIN: 143001192). In addition, at the appropriate places on the Form 471 you will cite the original BadgerNet Form 470 (#891980001346160, posted 04/14/2015) and reference the new BadgerNet contract number (#505004-O14-BCNMGRVCS-01).

Q15: If I want the WiscNet on BadgerNet Internet service option why is AT&T listed as the provider on the Form 471?

A15: The new BadgerNet contract requires that all Internet services under the contract be provided by AT&T. So with AT&T listed as the provider on the Form 471 your school or library will be billed by AT&T even if you select the WiscNet on BadgerNet Internet service option.

Q16: If AT&T is listed as the provider, then how do I indicate on the Form 471 that I actually want the WiscNet on BadgerNet Internet service option?

A16: WiscNet on BadgerNet and AT&T MIS on BadgerNet are priced differently and this is shown in the Rate Sheet and in the quote you will receive from AT&T. So the price listed on the Form 471 will then indicate which Internet option you want. Thus if you want WiscNet on

BadgerNet, enter the WiscNet on BadgerNet cost for this service at the appropriate place on your Form 471.

Option 3: File a single Funding Request

- Pros: This is a straight-forward option. For most applicants no special follow-up actions or processes will be needed. And compared to options #1 and #2 you will likely be subjected to less review and annoying questions from PIA.
- Cons: The later your migration, the more E-rate funding will be lost. For example, if your migration happens August 1 you will lose only one month of E-rate discounts; if your migration happens October 1 you will lose three months, etc.

Q17: How does filing a single Funding Request work?

A17: The key factor that makes this option viable is AT&T's intent (but no guarantees) to get the great majority of schools migrated by Sept. 1. With this option you file just one Funding Request for the entire E-rate year: July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018. On the 471 cite the original BadgerNet Form 470 (#891980001346160) and reference the new BadgerNet contract number (#505004-O14-BCNMGSRVCS-01). Because there are two Internet providers under the new contract (AT&T's MIS on BadgerNet and WiscNet on BadgerNet) you must conduct a mini-bid as referenced in Option #2 above. Then on the Form 471 enter the cost for the Internet option you selected — either AT&T's MIS on BadgerNet or WiscNet on BadgerNet — and list AT&T (SPIN: 143001192) as the provider.

Q18: Can you provide a brief summary of the above E-rate options for Internet Service on the new BadgerNet network?

A18: Yes. Below is a succinct summary in table format of the options explained above.

I want to minimize loss of E-rate funding	Option to take	Comment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • And I selected WiscNet pre-migration and WiscNet post-migration 	Option 1: File a single Funding Request; then file for a SPIN change (Option 2 is viable too)	Post-migration AT&T is offering this service as "WiscNet on BadgerNet" and thus this is a change in providers from WiscNet to AT&T.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • And I selected WiscNet pre-migration but AT&T post-migration 	Option 1: File a single Funding Request; then file for a SPIN change (Option 2 is viable too)	Post-migration this is a change in providers to AT&T's MIS (Managed Internet Service) on BadgerNet.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • And I selected AT&T pre-migration and AT&T post-migration 	Option 2: File two Funding Requests	SPIN change not applicable in this scenario because there is no change in providers.
I'm willing to lose some E-rate funding if I can have an easier, "cleaner" application process	Option 3: File a single Funding Request	You will get E-rate funding only after your migration but are not likely to get too many annoying questions from PIA.

Other questions

Q19: I have a multi-year contract with WiscNet. What must I do to ensure that my school receives WiscNet on BadgerNet service when we migrate to the new BadgerNet?

A19: There are only a few WiscNet members with multi-year contracts. WiscNet will inform them directly of the actions they need to take to ensure continued Internet access under the new BadgerNet contract.

Q20: If we select WiscNet on BadgerNet do we still have to pay the WiscNet Membership Fee?

A20: Yes. WiscNet will bill you for this \$1,500 annual fee which is not E-Rate eligible.

Q21: If I select WiscNet on BadgerNet or AT&T MIS on BadgerNet service, how long am I obligated to continue with this service?

A21: You *must* keep the Internet service for 12 months from the date of migration or pay termination charges for any portion of the 12 months of service not maintained. You may discontinue the service any time after 12 months without penalty. You may keep the service as long as you want during the length of the BadgerNet contract although the E-rate Form 471 must be filed each year.

Q22: Do we need to notify TEACH on which Internet access option we selected on the new BadgerNet?

A22: Likely not. In Fall 2016, all TEACH school and library customers completed a spreadsheet indicating how much bandwidth they wanted on the new BadgerNet and who their Internet provider was. TEACH assumes that the Internet provider listed on the spreadsheet last fall is the same one you selected from completing the mini-bid process referenced above. If this assumption is correct, no action is needed by you. However, if as a result of your mini-bid evaluation you selected a different option than the one listed on the Fall 2016 spreadsheet, then complete the TEACH [Service Change Request Form](#) and submit it to TEACH by May 11, 2017, stating who your new Internet service option is.

Q23: Will DPI conduct any outreach to further explain this whole process?

A23: May 2 Update: The final call-in session was May 2.

Q24: Who do I contact if I have questions?

A24: The following contacts can help address your questions:

- If you have questions on the AT&T MIS on BadgerNet Internet option, please contact Rob Roy at: rr3914@att.com.
- If you have questions on the WiscNet on BadgerNet Internet option, please contact: [Rob Roy](#) or WiscNet at: info@wiscnet.net.
- If you have questions about your pre-migration E-rate quote, contact your current provider.
- If you have questions on the TEACH program, please contact: teach@wisconsin.gov.
- If you have E-rate questions, please contact Bill Herman at DPI: Bill.Herman@dpi.wi.gov.