# E-rate FAQ

Revised 2024 Draft

## Effect of E-rate on SCLS Headquarters

**If services such as the firewall are managed centrally, is there any component that is eligible for E-rate category 2 funding?**

*SCLS applies for E-rate for network services at a pro-rated amount based on the number of libraries that are CIPA-compliant. If everything is going through the headquarters building from a router point of view, then headquarters is E-rate eligible. SCLS can apply for category 2 for router upgrades and wiring at headquarters, equipment for firewall, the network, wireless equipment and supporting software for any of these services. We will also receive pro-rated discounts on our WiscNet connection. SCLS will apply for E-rate for additional infrastructure (including Wireless) upgrades as appropriate.*

*Libraries that are CIPA compliant, may also be eligible to use LSTA funds for laptops and tablets when that is an option, though this is rare.*

**Is the cost of filtering included in E-rate category 2?**

*Filtering is not E-rate eligible. However, cost savings from other areas can offset the filtering costs.*

## Effect of CIPA on Libraries (Filtering)

**Do all libraries on the SCLS network need to filter in order for some libraries to qualify for the items in category 2 funding?**

*No. We can filter for some libraries, but not all. Libraries that filter (and meet additional CIPA requirements will be eligible for E-rate discounts). Filtering is not be required on SCLS-supported PCs.*

**Do all PCs, laptops and tablets in the library need to be filtered, including staff and those not on the SCLS network?**

*Yes. All library-owned PCs and tablets need to be filtered to be CIPA compliant.*

**Do PCS, laptops and tablets not owned by the library, but which are on a network in the library need to be filtered?**

*No. It is not requirement of CIPA that devices not owned by the library be filtered. However, SCLS does filter the WiFI in libraries participating in SCLS network AND filtering services. So all devices in the library are filtered, including devices not owned by the library.*

**Does the wireless service need to be filtered?**

*In order to be CIPA compliant, all devices owned by the library must be filtered. Since this includes laptops and tablets, SCLS does filter the WiFI in libraries participating in SCLS network AND filtering services. Libraries participating in E-rate, but not the SCLS WiFi service would need to filter the WiFI if devices owned by the library will be using the wireless network.*

**Does the “harmful to minors” phrase apply to only obscenity, or is it broader?**

*It is vague and intentionally vague in order to allow the local culture to decide what is “harmful to minors.” The law is specific, the FCC rules and regulations are open to local interpretation. Here is a statement from Ryan Claringbole who previously coordinated E-rate at DPI. “The main takeaway is that the filters protects against access to visual depictions (not online text) that are obscene, child pornography, or harmful to minors. Harmful to minors*[*is defined as*](http://ifea.net/cipa.pdf)*: "``(B) HARMFUL TO MINORS.--The term `harmful to minors' means any picture, image, graphic image file, or other visual depiction that-- ``(i) taken as a whole and with respect to minors, appeals to a prurient interest in nudity, sex, or excretion; ``(ii) depicts, describes, or represents, in a patently offensive way with respect to what is suitable for minors, an actual or simulated sexual act or sexual contact, actual or simulated normal or perverted sexual acts, or a lewd exhibition of the genitals; and (iii) taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value as to minors.”*

**Can libraries choose their own filters?**

*If a library has devices that are not on the SCLS network, they can choose their own filters. If devices are on the SCLS network, they will be filtered using the SCLS-supported filtering solution.*

**How does the filtering software allow someone to unblock “overblocked” content? Does it require intervention from the library staff or is it possible to override using authentication?**

*See the section “Filtering information – Untangle” on the SCLS E-Rate & Filtering web page:* [*https://www.scls.info/technology/erate*](https://www.scls.info/technology/erate)

## E-rate Funding

**What is eligible for discounts in libraries?**

*Routers, switches, wireless access points; antennas, cabling, connectors, and related components used for internal broadband connections; racks; uninterruptible power supply/battery backup; and caching; basic maintenance of eligible broadband internal connections components.*

## Does my library currently receive E-rate funding through the TEACH network and will that be affected?

## *Any library that receives their internet from BadgerNet, funded by TEACH, already receives E-rate discounts which are managed by the state. CIPA is not a requirement to receive this E-rate funding. This will not have any affect if you become CIPA compliant in order to receive Category 2 discounts. However, SCLS may be able to get additional E-rate discounts if libraries become CIPA compliant.*

**How would the filtering costs be divided?**

*Libraries participating in filtering cover the costs based on the annual network formula set by the Cost Formula Work Group.*

**Can you tell me what my estimated savings would be if my library filters?**

*Savings vary from year-to-year based on the network equipment replacement cycle, purchase of wireless equipment, new building projects and other factors. Most libraries receive at least a small amount each year. This information can be provided for an individual library upon request.*

**What costs are involved for each library to implement the compliance issues associated with filtering?**

*Other than the cost for the filtering solution, there are no additional costs. SCLS applies for E-rate grants on behalf of libraries participating in the service.*

## CIPA Compliance

**When does the compliance need to be completed by? One year from the time the application is submitted or from the time of the grant award (July 1)? Do we have one year to install filtering and for the libraries to complete the policy approval process?**

*New libraries have one year from the service start date (July 1) to become CIPA compliant. Typically, most libraries joining the service are compliant by July 1 of the service start date of the first year.*

**How long is the commitment if we accept E-rate funds?**

*Here is the answer from Bob Bocher at DPI , “They must remain CIPA compliant for as long as the library is getting E-rate support for a particular service. This is almost always the length of the application year. E.g., if a library gets E-rate for Internet access as part of the July 1 20XX application process, they must remain CIPA compliant until June 30 the following year.”*

**Is there anything else we need to do to become compliant?**

*Yes, in addition to filtering pornography, libraries must create an Internet Safety Policy that is compliant with CIPA and they must provide reasonable public notice and hold at least one public hearing or meeting to address the proposed Internet safety policy. (Full text below)*

1. Internet Safety Policy

Schools and libraries receiving universal service discounts are required to adopt and enforce an Internet safety policy that includes a technology protection measure that protects against access by adults and minors to visual depictions that are obscene, child pornography, or — with respect to use of computers with Internet access by minors — harmful to minors.

* The Internet safety policy must address all of the following issues:
* Access by minors to inappropriate matter on the Internet and World Wide Web
* The safety and security of minors when using electronic mail, chat rooms, and other forms of direct electronic communications
* Unauthorized access including "hacking" and other unlawful activities by minors online
* Unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personal information regarding minors
* Measures designed to restrict minors' access to materials harmful to minors

For schools, the policy must also include monitoring the online activities of minors. Note: beginning July 1, 2012, when schools certify their compliance with CIPA, they will also be certifying that their Internet safety policies have been updated to provide for educating minors about appropriate online behavior, including interacting with other individuals on social networking websites and in chat rooms, cyberbullying awareness, and response.

2. Technology Protection Measure (AKA Filter)

A technology protection measure is a specific technology that blocks or filters Internet access. The school or library must enforce the operation of the technology protection measure during the use of its computers with Internet access, although an administrator, supervisor, or other person authorized by the authority with responsibility for administration of the school or library may disable the technology protection measure during use by an adult to enable access for bona fide research or other lawful purpose.

3. Public Notice and Hearing or Meeting

The authority with responsibility for administration of the school or library must provide reasonable public notice and hold at least one public hearing or meeting to address a proposed technology protection measure and Internet safety policy. For private schools, public notice means notice to their appropriate constituent group. Unless required by local or state rules, an additional public notice and a hearing or meeting is not necessary for amendments to Internet safety policies.