

Schools and Libraries Cybersecurity Pilot Program

The Pilot Program will make up to \$200 million available over a three-year period to support cybersecurity services and equipment for eligible K-12 schools and libraries. The Pilot Program is funded via the Universal Service Fund but is separate from the E-Rate program.

The window for the Pilot Program application window will open this Fall. The FCC and USAC are planning Pilot Program trainings and webinars to help you prepare. Check the program website for dates and times.

Four broad categories of services and equipment will be eligible for support:

- Advanced and next-generation firewalls;
- Endpoint protection;
- Identity protection and authentication; and
- Monitoring, detection, and response.

To help you prepare for participating in the program, the FCC has posted a Getting Started guide on fcc.gov/cybersecurity-pilot-program.

Other Key Program Facts:

To facilitate the inclusion of a diverse set of Pilot projects and to target Pilot funds to the populations most in need of cybersecurity support, the FCC will award support to a combination of large and small and urban and rural schools, libraries, and consortia, with an emphasis on funding proposed Pilot projects that include low-income and Tribal applicants.

Selected Pilot participants will then be eligible to seek competitive bids, request services and equipment, and seek reimbursement. These processes will largely be similar to those used in the E-Rate program, and participants will submit Pilot Program versions of familiar E-Rate and ECF forms, including the Pilot FCC Form 470, Pilot FCC Form 471, and Pilot FCC Form 472/474.

Program participants will also be required to submit cybersecurity reporting data as a condition of participation.

Pilot applicants, participants, and service providers will be subject to Pilot Program integrity protection requirements, including audits, document retention and production rules, and restrictions on gifts.

