

# Internet Safety Curriculum Recommendations for the 2017- 2018 School Year

The CIPA provision “Protecting Children in the 21st Century Act” requires that your Internet safety policy provide measures for educating minors about appropriate online behavior including

- cyberbullying awareness and response, and
- interacting with other individuals on social networking sites.

Due to funding reductions, the **Learning.com** subscription, paid for by the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) to provide Internet safety training, will not be renewed for the upcoming 2017-18 school year.

**To assist with meeting the CIPA requirement, Lorrie Germann, State E-Rate Coordinator, recommends the following free resources:**

- **Netsmartz Workshop** - [www.netsmartz.org/Educators](http://www.netsmartz.org/Educators)
- **Common Sense Media** - [www.commonsense.org/education](http://www.commonsense.org/education)

The curriculum and method of training are a local decision. However, E-Rate applicants must file a Form 486 each year, certifying they are CIPA compliant. As a review of that application, or during a federal audit, applicants may be asked for evidence of their compliance. This includes

- dates training took place,
- roster of students trained, and
- plans for training students not present during “whole group” presentations.

The FCC has provided the following FAQs that you may find helpful as you plan how best to meet the Internet safety training requirement:

**Q 1. Are districts/schools receiving E-Rate funding required to provide education about appropriate online behavior to their students every year?**

Schools should determine how frequently they will provide educational programs or curriculum by evaluating local or community needs, and should retain documents demonstrating the frequency with which they provide their students with such programs or access to such curriculum.

**Q 2. Do schools need to ensure the education of every student in order to be able to certify they are educating minors about appropriate online behavior?**

Schools should provide education about appropriate online behavior to their students who are actually accessing the Internet using E-Rate covered services.

**Q. 3 What should schools include in their Internet safety policies, and what documents should schools retain to demonstrate compliance with the requirement to educate minors about appropriate online behavior?**

It is sufficient for a school’s Internet safety policy to specify that the school educates its students about appropriate online behavior. A school is not required to provide details about the curriculum, trainings or other educational programs it has chosen in the Internet safety policy itself. Although the FCC does not require schools to specify curriculum in their Internet safety policies, they should keep records of the implementation of their chosen method(s) for educating minors about appropriate online behavior.

If you have questions, or need additional information, please contact Lorrie Germann, State E-Rate Coordinator, at [lorrie.germann@education.ohio.gov](mailto:lorrie.germann@education.ohio.gov) or 740-253-1153.