

**Ohio Library Council
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

ITEM NO.: **5.C**

MEETING DATE: **July 17, 2026**

SUBJECT: **OPLIN Report**

SUBMITTED BY: **Don Yarman**

REPORT FOR INFORMATION

Competitive Bidding Portal

The FCC has long feared that, because reviewers do not have direct visibility into the competitive bidding process, the program is riddled with fraud and abuse. While it is true that some parties have been caught defrauding the program, the Government Accountability Office has praised the E-Rate program for its low error rate and for the fiscal controls that thwart waste, fraud, and abuse. Nevertheless, in April the FCC ordered the creation of a portal that all applicants must use to receive proposals for all 470s issued after July 1, 2027. SHLB and ALA are working “to help ensure the new requirement does not create unnecessary burdens for libraries, and schools.”

Existential Threat to E-Rate

On June 25, the FCC voted to advance proposals that target a variety of elements in the E-Rate program. The Benton Institute has [an excellent summary of the proposed rules](#). Briefly, the FCC is questioning whether the program (having completed its purpose) should be limited or sunset, whether limiting children's screen time should be a condition of funding, whether CIPA requirements should be expanded, and how consultants might be regulated. OPLIN is particularly concerned about a proposal that will require each member of a consortium to individually file their CIPA compliance within the E-Rate portal (currently, we streamline this process for libraries via oplin.org/erate). We urge everyone to visit SaveOurERate.com to learn more about how to take action.

OPLIN Core Network Maintenance

On June 2, OPLIN and OIT completed extensive maintenance activities for OPLIN's network core. The core router had been online without interruption for nearly seven years. The planned scope of work included replacing end-of-support routing engines and upgrading firmware in both the core and secondary routers, which turned out to be more complicated than expected, but of course Jessica and Mike (our OIT engineer) handled it expertly. Completion of this maintenance ensures that OPLIN's core router components are fully upgraded and supported, and running the most recent supported firmware. It also positions OPLIN to upgrade our library internet paths to OARnet from 20G and 10G to 100G over the next year.

