

**Ohio Library Council
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

ITEM NO.: **5.E**

MEETING DATE: **Sept. 19, 2025**

SUBJECT: **OPLIN Report**

SUBMITTED BY: **Don Yarman**

REPORT FOR INFORMATION

WiFi Hotspot E-Rate

FCC Chairman Carr has announced his intention to overturn the eligibility of hotspots for E-Rate support. Organizations are lobbying to make this effective for the next funding year and allow this year's applications (none of which have been approved) to move forward.

Statewide Web-Based Digital Skills Platform

After a delay of more than a year, BroadbandOhio has contracted with Northstar as the statewide digital literacy training platform. While this process dragged out, Northstar wasn't available to libraries statewide (libraries that weren't using the resource had their accounts deactivated). We're in the process of reactivating accounts, and we'll be relaunching Northstar later this year. Watch OPLINLIST for more information.

WhoFi

More than half of the libraries using OPLIN's Webkit service use the Community Calendar product. I surveyed them and everyone likes the product. It is easier to use and has better features than the native Drupal options; I will be looking for a way to continue paying for it for our libraries that use it. OPLIN won't be paying for the Wifi Analytics piece, though. OhioNet is exploring group pricing for it, but before you buy, you may want your IT people to reach out to us for alternative ways of getting those stats for free.

Cybersecurity Requirements

We're working with OLC and State Library to help libraries with the new requirements. For more information, visit oplin.ohio.gov/security.

Managed Branch Connections

Sign-ups are open now for OPLIN to provide connections to library branches (we do almost all of the work for just \$2000 a year). Visit oplin.ohio.org/mbc for more info. We're also exploring a less expensive, lower tier of service for smaller locations. If it comes together, we'll announce that later in October.

Fall E-Rate Training Dates

[FY2026 E-Rate for Library Beginners Workshop](#), 1pm Oct. 8

[FY2026 E-rate for Experienced Library Applicants Workshop](#), 1pm Oct. 9

[FY2026 Form 470 Training for Library Category 1 Services Workshop](#), 9:30am Oct. 14

[FY2026 Form 470 Training for Library Category 2 Services Workshop](#), 1pm Oct. 16