

**Ohio Library Council
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

ITEM NO.: **5.F**

MEETING DATE: **Nov. 7, 2025**

SUBJECT: **OPLIN Report**

SUBMITTED BY: **Don Yarman**

REPORT FOR INFORMATION

MBC Light

Last year, we launched Managed Branch Connections (MBC), giving libraries the option of paying OPLIN \$2,000 for fiber internet to their branches with the same support that we provide for the main/central library circuit. This helps meet the state's broadband expansion goals of bringing 1Gbps symmetrical broadband to community anchor institutions. Obviously, though, the cost of that falls to libraries themselves, and many libraries reasonably argue that gig fiber is overkill for very small branch locations. For those libraries, we created MBC Light, where OPLIN can provide high speed data (1Gbps down/35Mbps up) on copper lines for \$750 per year. Like the full Managed Branch Connections, OPLIN filed E-Rate, orders service, and handles implementation and support. Branches will also get an OPLIN IP address and receive OPLIN's DDoS protection and security scanning.

E-Rate Tidbits

- The "Admin Window" is open for you to update your records with USAC—new buildings, closed buildings, and particularly changes in square footage. Square footage determines your Category 2 allotment, and a new five-year cycle of Category 2 money commences this year.
- If you applied for funds to support patron hotspot lending, your funding request will soon be denied. If you are in T-Mobile's service area, you may be interested in an offer from Mission Telecom, which will match post-discount pricing through the remainder of this funding year (i.e. until June 30, 2026). We recommend that applicants review their contracts and reach out to their service provider as soon as possible.
- Due to new accessibility requirements for our webinar recordings, there's a slight delay in getting the videos of this year's E-Rate training posted to our YouTube Channel. Should be up shortly.
- The FCC hasn't finalized next year's Eligible Services List; we are unlikely to see a final ESL until mid-November at the earliest—potentially much later, depending on how long the federal shutdown lasts. No big changes are expected, other than more clarity on the difference between "basic maintenance of internal connections" and "managed internal broadband services."

Cybersecurity Webinar

A recording of Jessica Dooley's webinar Starting a Security Plan: ORC 9.64 for Public Libraries will be posted to OPLIN's YouTube Channel. Jessica focuses on how to get started and prioritize the plan's elements, and identifies free resources that will help.