Ohio Library Council
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

ITEM NO.: **6.C**   MEETING DATE: **Jan. 16, 2026**

SUBJECT: **OPLIN Report**   SUBMITTED BY: **Don Yarman**

REPORT FOR INFORMATION

E-Rate Tidbits

- The Form 471 application window for funding year 2026 opens Wednesday, Jan. 21, and will close on Wednesday, Apr. 1. Currently, the administrative window for you to update entity profiles (new buildings, closed buildings square footage changes) will close on Friday, Jan. 16.
- Due to the late elimination of hotspot and school bus Wi-Fi services, followed by the federal government shutdown, the final Eligible Services List wasn't released until December. There were some welcome changes which clarified the difference between "basic maintenance of internal connections" and "managed internal broadband services." These are covered in our "E-Rate Form 470 for Category 2" webinar held January 8, and available soon from our YouTube Channel.

Web Accessibility Webinar

A recording of Laura Solomon's webinar *Opening Doors Online: The basics of web accessibility* is currently available. Laura discussed the core guidelines used to evaluate web accessibility in the United States and offered practical first actions libraries can take right away: common pitfalls to avoid, the limits of commercial accessibility overlays, and how to approach PDFs responsibly and effectively.

H.B. 583

Representatives Ritter and Newman introduced a bill to add language requiring school districts, public libraries, and state agencies to block access to inappropriate materials (such as sexual content and content promoting the use of drugs, alcohol, and gambling) from digital or online library database resources to students in grades K-12. Violations of these requirements may result in penalization, such as price reduction for these services and termination of contract. Mandy and I both provided answers to the Legislative Budget Office concerning how common it is for libraries to offer these resources, to what extent libraries filter out obscene materials, and what standards and methods libraries used for filtering.

Gongwer Content Change

The Gongwer News Service has migrated to a new platform which requires individual subscriber logins. We're working with Gongwer staff to keep our current listserv distribution model of the Ohio Report in place.