

# E-Rate & CIPA Considerations for K-12 Apple Deployments

What district IT and business officials should know before filing.

## E-Rate Eligibility

Apple iPads and Macs themselves are not E-Rate Category 2 eligible as 'end-user devices,' but supporting infrastructure is.

Category 1: Bandwidth (broadband internet, fiber, leased dark fiber).

Category 2: Internal connections — Wi-Fi access points, switches, structured cabling, network management, and basic firewall service.

MDM platforms may be eligible as 'basic maintenance of internal connections' or 'managed internal broadband services' depending on the funding year — confirm in the current Eligible Services List.

## Aligning Apple Purchases

Pair your iPad/Mac refresh with a Category 2 Wi-Fi or switch refresh in the same funding cycle.

Use separate purchase orders for E-Rate-eligible items so invoicing matches your FCC Form 471.

NLE Systems provides itemized quotes that map cleanly to Category 1 and Category 2 line items.

## CIPA Compliance

Districts receiving E-Rate funding must comply with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA).

Required elements: technology protection measure that blocks obscenity, child pornography, and material harmful to minors; an Internet Safety Policy; and ongoing education about appropriate online behavior, cyberbullying, and social media.

## Apple Deployment + CIPA

Configure content filtering at the network and / or device level using your MDM and a CIPA-aligned filter (e.g. Lightspeed, Securly, GoGuardian, Cisco Umbrella).

For 1:1 take-home programs, ensure the filter follows the device off-network (per-app VPN, DNS-based filtering, or device-side filtering).

Document configurations in your CIPA compliance file — auditors expect screenshots and policy text.

## Timeline Reminders

FCC Form 470 typically opens in early summer of the year before funding starts.

Form 471 application window typically closes in late winter.

Build a 12-month lead time when aligning a major Apple refresh with E-Rate.

Prepared by NLE Systems — Authorized Apple Reseller for K-12 Education. Contact [ac@nlesystems.com](mailto:ac@nlesystems.com) for tailored guidance for your district.