

Checklist: Deploying Wi-Fi and using E-Rate for school buses

For school districts that want to take advantage of the government's E-Rate program, conducting open conversations with all stakeholders, including line-level IT staff, will make the difference in creating operational efficiencies and streamlining digital transformation when deploying Wi-Fi on school buses.

Questions to consider

- ☐ What is the objective for implementing school bus Wi-Fi? (On-board access to homework? Driver and student safety?)
- ☐ Exactly what metrics and benchmarks must the system deliver to be considered a success?
- ☐ How can the school district ensure the solution it deploys will support the increased digital traffic and computing that will occur?
- ☐ What will it take to ensure the utmost network security and CIPA compliance?
- ☐ Is the IT team leading the deployment, or is a different group in charge?
- ☐ How will the IT team manage and control its deployed cellular endpoints, including hardware and software refreshes?
- ☐ Does the school district have the resources to troubleshoot issues that arise?
- ☐ How long will it take to complete the deployment across the school bus fleet?
- ☐ Does the project lead have partnerships and processes in place with stakeholder groups?

Have you gathered input?

Gather input from all stakeholders — including school administrators, IT, and fleet managers — to improve the odds of success for your technology rollout.



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Quick check:

Does your school district have a complete solution in place to ensure constant connectivity and secure Wi-Fi communications on school buses?

Data and network security**Seeking solution****Already have solution**

Only allow school district approved applications

Whitelist websites that staff and SRO officers can visit

Run IDS/IPS technologies to minimize attack points

Networking equipment**Seeking solution****Already have solution**

Ensure routers can withstand bus vibrations and wide-ranging temperature fluctuations

Enable automatic connection failover between multiple cellular carriers

Wi-Fi supports up to 100 clients

Network management**Seeking solution****Already have solution**

Use a cloud-based network management tool

Use configuration groups to simplify updates

Monitor location of school buses remotely

Track signal strength patterns along bus routes

Troubleshoot connection problems remotely