

# Ohio Partners with Learning.com for Online Safety Curriculum

Public and charter school districts use EasyTech Online Safety to educate students about appropriate online behavior while meeting E-Rate requirements.

## Amended Children's Internet Protection Act Spurs Changes

Since its inception in 2001, the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) has required Internet content filtering to keep students safe online. Policymakers amended CIPA in 2008, requiring that minors be educated on Internet safety. In addition to providing this required online safety training, schools must show evidence that training has occurred.

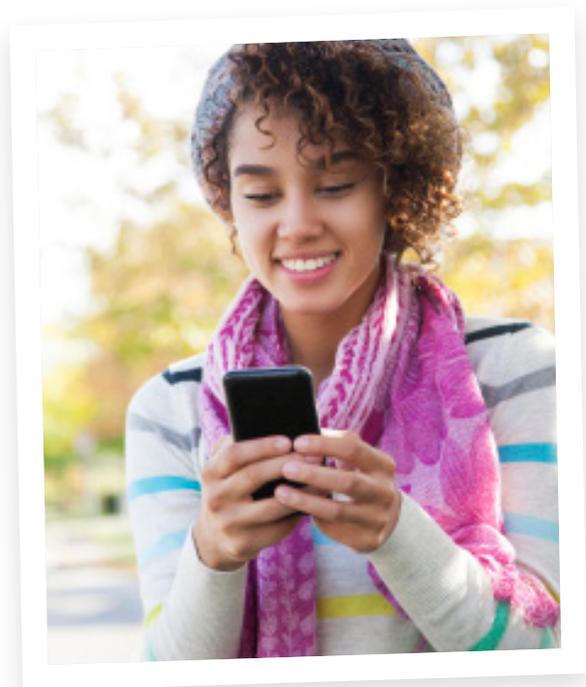
With the new requirement taking effect for the 2012 school year, Ohio districts became anxious about fulfilling the new standards and retaining their E-Rate funding. To qualify for E-Rate technology funding, CIPA requires districts and schools to have an Internet safety program in place for all students.

## Ohio's Response

The Ohio Department of Education (DOE) and Ohio Board of Regents heard the outcry from districts and conducted a survey to identify support opportunities.

More than 300 districts replied to the survey, and all of them asked for help providing a curriculum addressing the new requirement. The path forward was clear. The Ohio DOE and Board of Regents opted for a statewide solution, enabling districts to collaborate and share best practices.

The groups issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) in search of a curriculum that: covers grades K-12; is easy to use; includes a learning management system (LMS) or reporting system; allows for anytime, anywhere access; and provides ongoing professional development and support.



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### Selecting a Partner

After receiving numerous responses, the Ohio DOE and Board of Regents chose the only solution that met all requirements: EasyTech Online Safety curriculum from Learning.com. The state purchased the curriculum and now provides it at no cost to all Ohio public and chartered non-public school districts.

“As the Internet becomes more integrated into the classroom, it is crucial for students to learn how to stay safe online,” said Lorrie Germann, state E-Rate coordinator at Ohio DOE. “The feedback we received from schools using Learning.com was overwhelmingly positive, and we’re proud to offer this resource to Ohio teachers and students at no cost.”

### Satisfying E-Rate Standards

EasyTech Online Safety provides a comprehensive, grade-appropriate curriculum that satisfies E-Rate requirements for grades K-12. The curriculum teaches students the skills needed to be ethical digital citizens, helping them stay safe as they use the Internet and other digital communication tools. It also includes topics on cyberbullying, social networking, cell phone safety, online research ethics, online scams, and identity theft. Resources for teachers and parents provide strategies to discuss challenging online safety topics, both at school and at home.

Learning.com also provides professional development workshops around the state, along with a series of webinars for district or school staff members responsible for implementing the curriculum.

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### Seeing the Benefits

Response from Ohio educators has been overwhelmingly positive. Reactions include:

“The LMS is incredibly easy to use.”

“My students love the content.”

“We appreciate the ability to implement based on our needs; we’re not locked into one approach.”

And the response Germann hears most often: “Please continue to provide this valuable resource.”

For more information on Learning.com and its partnership with the Ohio DOE, please visit: [Learning.com/Ohio](https://www.learning.com/Ohio).

## About Learning.com

Learning.com is a national leader in providing digital literacy solutions that help prepare students for online assessments, school, college and their future careers. The company offers a complete digital literacy curriculum for grades K-8 that engages students as they develop critical skills such as keyboarding, business applications, online safety, computational thinking and coding. Founded in 1999, Learning.com currently partners with one in six U.S. school districts and serves more than 4 million students each year. The company has earned more than 30 industry awards, including ISTE 2017 Best of Show, 2017 Award of Excellence from “Tech & Learning Magazine” and “The Oregonian’s Top Workplace” for 2017 and 2016.