Public Schools of North Carolina
State Board of Education
Department of Public Instruction

NOTICE TO SCHOOLS

TOPIC: EVENT INTERNET STREAMING OVER E-RATE FUNDED NETWORK SERVICES

NCDPI has received several inquiries regarding various forms of streaming of after-hours school events and, more specifically, the use of a vendor that provides some form of payment to the school in exchange for providing the streaming. Due to the wide variety of potential implementations, vendors, and contracts, NCDPI cannot provide a blanket answer to the "is this allowed" question. Each situation is unique. Therefore, NCDPI has no official opinion, defers to the local board of education, and recommends Boards consult their attorney on this matter.

NCDPI can, however, provide initial relevant materials to assist in the local research effort. This is not intended to be exhaustive but is a starting point for discovery.

ISSUE: E-rate Eligibility: On September 28, 2010, the FCC issued it's "Sixth Report and Order" (https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/FCC-10-175A1.pdf). In it, they "permit schools to allow community use of E-rate funded services outside of school hours." In their news-brief dated January 7, 2011, USAC summarizes it thus:

Community Use of Schools' E-rated Services
- After school hours, schools may open their facilities to the general public to use E-rate supported services.
- Schools decide whether or not to provide such access.
- Service must primarily be for educational purposes.
- Schools cannot purchase additional services to support community use. Use must be incidental and not increase E-rate costs.
- Community use is limited to non-operating hours and only on campus. School personnel and students must have priority.
- Schools may not charge for use of services or facilities purchased through E-rate though they may charge a fee to offset ineligible costs (e.g. security, additional electricity, etc.)

Additional information may be found at:
E-rate Central Community Usage