INFO SHEET

MANAGED ACCESS BUNDLE | FOR K-12 E-RATE

Your students are online. Threats shouldn't be.

Fiber DIA, a managed Cisco Meraki firewall, and Akamai-powered DNS filtering. One bundle, one provider, one less thing on your plate, and built to slot cleanly into your E-rate filing.



WHAT'S IN THE BUNDLE

Dedicated Internet Access (DIA).

Symmetrical, low-latency fiber on FirstLight's own managed network, not best-effort broadband. Plenty of headroom for 1:1 devices, cloud-based testing, and AI tools all hitting the network at once. We've connected Northeast schools since 1998.

75% of traffic on our IP network connects directly to its destination. Fewer hops, less lag, A+ performance.

Managed Meraki MX Firewall.

A cloud-managed Cisco Meraki next-generation firewall that stops threats at the edge. We own the policy maintenance, rule audits, and firmware updates so your team doesn't have to.

Think of it as a hall monitor that never takes a day off.

DNS Filtering.

Powered by Akamai, our DNS-layer filtering blocks malicious and inappropriate domains before a connection is ever made.

It's a strong building block for your CIPA technology protection measure.

WHAT'S UNDER THE HOOD?

- **Content Filtering:** blocks malware, ransomware, adult content, gambling, hate speech, and other restricted categories.
- **Safe Search, Enforced:** SafeSearch for Google and Bing, plus YouTube content controls.
- **IDS/IPS:** detects and stops intrusion attempts before they reach your network.
- **Advanced Malware Protection:** defends against AI-assisted bots and emerging threats.
- **Application Visibility:** Network Based Application Recognition (NBAR) shows which apps are eating your bandwidth.
- **Hands-on Deployment:** hands-on support from network design through go-live.

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E-RATE, WITHOUT THE HEADACHE

DIA is Category 1 eligible, and basic firewall protection is eligible too. Content filtering and advanced security features like IDS/IPS and malware protection are not, so they must be cost-allocated. FirstLight itemizes eligible and ineligible components for you, so your Form 471 is clean and PIA review has fewer surprises.

WHY SCHOOLS CHOOSE FIRSTLIGHT

25+ yrs
E-rate fluency

Guiding Northeast schools through Forms 470 and 471, competitive bidding, and program compliance.

~1,400
Proven at scale

Schools and higher education institutions trust FirstLight with their connectivity and IT. Connecting Northeast schools since 1998.

Local
Not long-distance

Our account executives and engineers live in the communities we serve. They know your schools and show up when you need them.

FIRSTLIGHT MANAGED ACCESS VS. STANDARD INTERNET

	FIRSTLIGHT MANAGED ACCESS	STANDARD INTERNET
NETWORK	✓ **Symmetrical, low-latency fiber on a provider-managed network**	✗ "Best-effort" service from a distant national carrier
CIPA	✓ **Built to support CIPA compliance**	✗ CIPA tools are your problem
SECURITY	✓ **Malware and threat protection included**	✗ Security sold separately
GROWTH	✓ **Scales as demand grows**	✗ Capped by thresholds and lock-ins
VISIBILITY	✓ **Full visibility into network usage and app traffic**	✗ Visibility costs extra
SUPPORT	✓ **24/7 NOC plus local support**	✗ Long holds and remote call centers
PRICING	✓ **Predictable monthly pricing at a discounted rate**	✗ Standard monthly pricing
E-RATE	✓ **A team fluent in E-rate, cost allocation, and PIA**	✗ A rep who may not know a 470 from a 471

PLANNING YOUR NEXT FORM 470?

Talk to your FirstLight account executive and get the Managed Access Bundle into this year's bid.