

# Advocacy Institute 2018

Information for Your Capitol Hill Meetings · Tuesday, February 6

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*District-Specific Facts:* If your district has implemented new compliance measures for student data, please share these details to help inform federal developments for FERPA modernization.

FJ Response 1 - CFISD is a leader in the state of Texas working to implement new compliance measures for student data. Through the Consortium of School Networking (CoSN) and the Student Data Privacy Alliance (SDPA) – both at the national level, and with the Texas K-12 Chief Technology Officer (CTO) Council at the state level, we are leading an advisory group with 12 other districts that are focused on “Building Trusted Learning Environments (TLE).” We also are leaders in the national and state level in the Student Data Privacy Alliance (SDPA).

At the Texas Association for School Administrators (TASA) Midwinter conference this week on January 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>, CFISD presented three presentations highlighting our efforts on implementing new compliance measures for student data. We are honored to be a leader in the state and nation! See these five attachments for further reference.

- [FJ Response 1a](#) – This presentation covers the work that CFISD has led in the area of Student Data Privacy using the Trusted Learning Environment (TLE) framework. See attachment “*FJ Response 1b TASA 2018 Student Data Privacy Building a TLE final*”
- [FJ Response 1b](#) – This presentation expands on the work that CFISD has put forth related to applying for the Trusted Learning Environment (TLE) seal of approval. CFISD plans to apply for the seal of approval in April 2018. See attachment “*FJ Response 1b TASA 2018 Student Data Privacy Building a TLE final.*”
- [FJ Response 1c](#) – This is the January 2018 Student Data Privacy Alliance update. The document describes the mission and project status. See attachment “*FJ Response 1c January 2018 - Student Data Privacy Alliance.*”
- [FJ Response 1d](#) – This presentation covers the work of CFISD’s participation in the Student Data Privacy Alliance. See attachment “*FJ Response 1e Student Data Privacy\_ SDPC.*”
- [FJ Response 1e](#) – As CFISD is working through the Trusted Learning Environment (TLE) action plan, preparing to apply for the TLE seal, the action items related to FERPA are included in this attachment “*FJ Response 1d TLE FERPA Action Plan.*” This substantiates our commitment to implementing new compliance measures for student data.

## Net Neutrality and Access to Equitable Digital Learning Opportunities

*Priority:* NSBA supports restoration of Net Neutrality protections designed to ensure that schooldistricts, especially districts serving low-income and rural communities, are not subject to disparate treatment by Internet Service Providers (ISP) or forced to adopt higher costs by content providers that are forced to pay additional feeds to ISPs. In addition, NSBA supports an increased investment in the E-Rate program for greater connectivity and broadband modernization in our nation’s schools and libraries.

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Background/Status: In December 2017, the Federal Communications Commission voted to eliminate the agency's net neutrality regulations. Elimination of the regulations raises several concerns for school districts, including potential pass-through costs associated with data-heavy digital learning initiatives; a less innovative education technology environment based on potential discriminatory pricing for new market entrants; and, heightened pricing and other vulnerabilities for rural and high cost districts that may only have access to a single broadband carrier. In addition, the Senate is considering passing legislation to reinstate the rules as part of its authority under the Congressional Review Act.

Finally, the FCC may consider changes to the E-rate program, including lowering the program's overall level of investment and rolling-back the program's five-year Wi-Fi initiative.

### Talking Points/District-Specific Facts:

- Congress should support Net Neutrality protections to ensure that broadband providers treat all school districts fairly.
- Net Neutrality protections must include efforts to provide a level playing field for the innovative content providers helping districts establish effective digital learning environments for their students. NSBA also strongly supports the improvements made to the E-Rate program in 2014, including the focus on helping districts establish robust Wi-Fi connectivity for all learning spaces on school property.
- Congress should also reaffirm its support for the E-rate modernization completed in 2014. Members of Congress should encourage the FCC to maintain the program's funding levels and five-year planning window.

District-Specific Facts: Highlight instances where your districts may be served by only a single Internet Service Provider and let your members of Congress and their staff know that **single** service communities are especially vulnerable without Net Neutrality protections.

Frankie

FJ Response 2 – CFISD has built a technology infrastructure that provides two Internet service providers. CFISD has three datacenters. Two of the datacenters provide Internet connectivity using two different Internet service providers, ICTX and Cogent. See attachment “*FJ Response 2a Net Neutrality with 2 Internet connections.*” Net neutrality refers to freedom and open access where our staff and students can connect to appropriate content and the Internet service providers can't play favorites because they disagree with the content being delivered or charge more money for faster delivery of content. CFISD's unique and forward thinking design increases the opportunity of gaining access to an open Internet with two paths to open Internet content, however even with two paths, both Internet service providers could control our access to information. This would leave CFISD vulnerable to Internet service providers without net neutrality protections.

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CFISD serves at the national level on the Consortium of School Network ([www.CoSN.org](http://www.CoSN.org)) policy committee. There are only eight members across the nation on the policy committee. CFISD is honored to be selected to serve on this committee. The following is the policy committee's position on net neutrality at the national level.

## **COSN: AGGRESSIVE NET NEUTRALITY PLAN RAISES TROUBLING QUESTIONS FOR SCHOOLS**

Washington, DC

Tuesday, November 28, 2017

CoSN (the Consortium for School Networking) CEO Keith Krueger today issued the following statement on the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC's) net neutrality plans:

*"CoSN, and the school technology leaders we serve, are concerned about the potential, unexpected consequences of Chairman Ajit Pai's aggressive net neutrality plan. The FCC should carefully consider the proposal's implications for teaching and learning before leaping into these murky waters.*

*"For example, will school districts be stuck with the bill for higher transport costs levied on digital content providers? Simply relying on carriers to disclose information about pricing and practices would be a flimsy guardrail for powerful Internet service providers (ISPs), especially for smaller, rural and high-cost districts that lack competition and meaningful market power.*

*"We are also concerned how the tiered pricing and fast lanes – potentially structured to benefit incumbent companies – would disadvantage new entrants into the education technology market. How will the FCC and the Federal Trade Commission protect startups from ISPs that prefer better-resourced incumbents?"*

*"Finally, if this policy change aims to stimulate network investment, what guarantee will the FCC provide to ensure ISPs target underserved communities – especially rural, poorly connected school districts?"*

*"Before rolling net neutrality back, the FCC should take a very cautious look at its impact on schools, students and families nationwide."*



Brief staff and Members of Congress about your district's connectivity needs and how your district has used E-rate funding to support digital learning initiatives.

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FJ Response 3 – CFISD has significant connectivity needs as clearly articulated in the district’s technology plan. Since 2013, CFISD has expanded Internet connectivity bandwidth by over 1200% as shown in attachment “*FJ Response 3a Connectivity Needs*.” Substantial E-rate funding combined with a 2014 Bond Technology Infrastructure program has supported the technology infrastructure upgrades. Without these upgrades, partially funded by E-rate, these upgrades would not be possible. Digital learning initiatives are only possible with a highly reliable, highly sustainable, high-speed network. For students to experience deep digital learning, our school networks must be well designed networks that support the increased technological demands.

References about CFISD’s E-rate funding requests are available here: <https://www.cfisd-technologyservices.net/usac-sld-e-rate.html>. Examples of the types of technology infrastructure upgrades are available here: <https://www.cfisd-technologyservices.net/2014-bond.html>.

## Improving the Nation 's Education Infrastructure

*Priority:* As Congress and the Administration explore opportunities to modernize our nation's infrastructure, NSBA encourages new investments to help school districts develop 21st Century educational facilities that support students and communities.

From learning spaces with high capacity broadband connections to state-of-the-art science laboratories and energy efficient green buildings, such new investments would help address students' educational needs. Schools across the country are relying on crumbling infrastructure, as many existing buildings are inadequate and outdated. Recent estimates place total school facility needs, including [technology](#), at well over \$500 billion, which is beyond the capacity of many communities and States to address. Legislation to prioritize grants for schools in

underserved communities, create a new school infrastructure tax-exempt bond program, promote green building design, and support digital infrastructure is critical to advancing student success.

**Background/Status:** Last year, Members of Congress introduced the Rebuilding America's Schools Act (RASA). NSBA supports an infrastructure package that excludes provisions to expand existing federal law governing labor standards requirements applicable to school bond programs. NSBA is working to ensure the positive ideas embedded in RASA are included in any infrastructure legislation considered by Congress in 2018.

## Talking Points/District-Specific Facts:

- Many school districts require capital improvements to support student success. Far too many schools, especially facilities serving low-income communities, have outlived their useful life. All students should be able to learn in safe and healthy environments.

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- If Congress considers a national infrastructure package, we urge you to support education focused investments, including funds to modernize school facilities designed to support 21<sup>st</sup> Century learning for all students. World class science, technology, engineering and math instruction, as well as industry aligned career and technical education, requires vastly improved facilities.

FJ Response 4 – CFISD is proud to be a leader in developing the nation’s network education infrastructure design blueprint called SEND (Smart Education Network by Design). CFISD technology leadership has been work with the Consortium of School Networking ([www.CoSN.org](http://www.CoSN.org)) since 2014, as part of a working group to design resilient, high reliability, high speed networks that will support the increased demands of student devices and connectivity access with 24/7/365 access. More information about SEND is here: <http://www.cosn.org/focus-areas/it-management/send-smart-education-networks-design>. Publicity about CFISD’s technology infrastructure is available here: <https://www.cfisd-technologyservices.net/publicity.html>.

Through the support of the CFISD community, leadership, long range planning committee, hardworking staff and technology support professionals, and leadership and support from CFISD’s Board of Trustees, CFISD is building the largest SEND network in the nation. Thank you CFISD!