



**TO:** Board of Education  
**FROM:** Interim Director of Technology, Nicole Eimer  
**DATE:** April 9, 2026  
**RE:** Technology Summer Upgrades: Fiber, Firewall & Switches

**This memo is:**

- Information only.
- Information with a recommendation, and a request for Board consent.
- Information with a recommendation, and a request for Board approval by vote.

Date by which a Board decision is needed: April 23, 2026

Previous memos on this topic can be found:

- in previous Board packet(s) dated. \_\_\_\_\_
- or attached to this memo

**Basic information:**

The Technology Department is requesting approval for a set of coordinated summer infrastructure upgrades, including:

- Transition to a fiber network connection
- Replacement of the District’s firewall
- Replacement and upgrade of network switches

Together, these projects will modernize the District’s network, improving speed, reliability, and security across all schools and facilities. Both the firewall and switch purchases qualify for eRate funding, significantly reducing overall costs.

**Background or historical information:**

**Fiber Network Upgrade (Sentinel Technologies)**

The District is transitioning from Comcast ENS to a dark fiber network with direct point-to-point (P2P) connections between schools and the Education Service Center.

Key components include:

- Dedicated fiber connections from each school to the district hub
- A new 10Gbps internet circuit at the Education Service Center
- Improved routing and network architecture for scalability and performance
- Full design, implementation, and project management by Sentinel Technologies

This upgrade will significantly increase bandwidth, reduce dependency on external providers, and provide a more stable, high-performance network to support instruction, operations, and future growth.

**Fiber Project Cost (Sentinel): \$17,118.00**



### **Firewall Upgrade (SHI)**

The District's current firewall infrastructure must be replaced to maintain strong network security and support increased traffic demands.

Firewall & Installation Total: \$75,415.00

*This includes a Fortinet FortiGate appliance, licensing, and installation services.*

### **eRate Funding Details:**

A portion of the firewall project qualifies for federal eRate reimbursement:

Firewall equipment is 44% eligible, reducing eligible cost to \$29,700.00

Installation costs reduced to \$3,482.60

Total submitted for eRate reimbursement: \$33,182.60

If approved by USAC: District receives 85% reimbursement = \$28,205.21

**District responsibility for firewall portion = \$47,239.79**

---

### **Switch Infrastructure Upgrade (SHI)**

To support the new fiber network and increased device usage, the District will replace aging network switches across buildings.

**Switch Infrastructure Total: \$83,855.00**

*This includes Juniper switches, licensing, and installation services.*

The switch project also qualifies for eRate funding (pending final eligibility determination), further offsetting total costs.

---

### **Previous decisions, actions or parameters that relate to this topic or issue:**

These upgrades align with the District's long-term technology plan to: modernize infrastructure, improve cybersecurity, ensure reliable access to digital learning tools, and support increasing network demands across all schools

---

### **Recommendations: (Recommendations) and (Evaluate)**

The Technology Department recommends approval of all three components as a unified summer infrastructure upgrade:

- **Fiber network implementation** by Sentinel Technologies
- **Firewall purchase** from SHI
- **Switch infrastructure purchase** from SHI

---

### **Other questions? What else does the Board wish to know?:**

---