

Chronology: Lightspeed Content Filtering

The DeKalb County School District (DCSD) utilizes a districtwide content filtering solution to ensure compliance with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA), a federal requirement for all K-12 school districts that receive E-Rate funding. CIPA requires school systems receiving E-Rate funding to implement technology protection measures that block access to inappropriate or harmful online content while allowing access to legitimate educational resources.

Lightspeed provides a cloud-based content filtering platform designed specifically for K-12 environments. The solution uses automated categorization, advanced algorithms, and artificial intelligence to analyze and classify web content in real time. This approach allows the district to adapt to emerging online threats while maintaining consistent filtering protections across student and staff instructional devices.

The platform supports centralized administration and policy enforcement across the district. Cloud-based management tools enable district administrators to configure filtering rules, monitor activity, and generate reports to support Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) enforcement and ongoing compliance monitoring.

Key Services:

- **Districtwide Content Filtering**
Real-time filtering of internet traffic to block explicit, harmful, or inappropriate content in support of CIPA compliance.
- **AI and Algorithm-Based Web Analysis**
Automated categorization and continuous analysis of web content to respond to emerging threats without manual intervention.
- **Cloud-Based Policy Management and Reporting**
Centralized configuration of filtering policies, activity monitoring, and compliance reporting across all schools and devices.
- **Classroom Management Tools**
Real-time visibility into student web activity during instruction, including the ability to close distracting browser tabs, block inappropriate sites, and share approved instructional resources.
- **Instructional Flexibility Controls**
Role-based access that allows teachers and principals to temporarily unblock educational content as needed while maintaining districtwide safeguards.

Lightspeed also provides operational and security visibility through reporting and analytics. Data reflects active use of security-related filtering and classroom management features, including monitoring of filter bypass attempts, blocked security traffic, and classroom device management activity. These metrics support ongoing evaluation of policy effectiveness, cybersecurity posture, and instructional technology usage.

Procurement:

In accordance with Board of Education Purchasing Policy DJE III.D.3.d., the Purchasing Department is authorized to make purchases through inter-governmental and educational cooperatives, alliances, and consortiums to achieve cost savings and administrative efficiencies.

based on economies of scale. Therefore, this purchase will utilize Sourcewell Cooperative Purchasing Agreement #121923-CDW-G

Financial Impact:

Year	Cost
2024	\$896,040.00
2025	\$891,765.00
2026	\$919,125 requested