

VALUE OF A REN

K-12 Schools



Research and Education Networks (RENs) have proven to be an instrumental backbone of K-12 institutions providing the niche technical expertise, innovation, and cybersecurity programs required of the ever-evolving digital classroom as we educate our nation's future.

RENs are a crucial technology partner for K-12 school districts. They have become a necessity in a post-COVID-19 world that has rapidly catapulted the digital classroom and the next generation of learning environments forward.

While the pandemic proved to be a challenge of a lifetime to education as we know it, cyber security is a formidable opponent that the REN community is well-positioned to take on as a committed partner to school districts. RENs are prepared to provide best in-class cybersecurity solutions designed specifically to mitigate school district cybersecurity threats so that educators and administrators can focus on their educational goals.

The broadband gap has been exposed, especially in the time of distance learning. It pushed REN engineers and school IT professionals to collaborate like they never have before to deliver innovative solutions and offerings – and we're better for it. RENs across the country are the pillar that empowers our schools with reliable, fast and secure broadband infrastructure powering the education of the next generation. Detection, prioritization, and remediation of the myriad of vulnerabilities in today's network infrastructure is foundational to building a compliant and responsive cybersecurity program.

The Nation's RENs Provide K-12 Schools With:

Advanced Network Services and Applications

- Advanced networks, services, and tools purpose-built for the unique needs of school districts.
- No-cost IP addresses and domain name services.
- 24/7/365 local technical support for network support, engineering, design and professional consulting services.
- Consulting expertise to tunnel and connect from district to district to create a private, secure statewide area network.
- Strong fiber infrastructure to provide scalable and resilient data sharing and communications across the board for video, audio, testing, collaboration and more.
- Technical expertise for an increasingly digital classroom requiring wireless and mobility support.
- Leading IT solutions and equipment with the collaborative benefits of discounted rates and other cost saving efficiencies.
- Managing complex software license agreements to maximize application capabilities.

Powerful Community and Collaboration

- National educational program content through partners like Internet2.
- Complementary educational and professional development opportunities for educators in the form of annual meetings, conferences, advisory councils, communities of practice and more.
- E-Rate program expertise, consulting, and consortia filing to empower districts to make the best internet access value decision.
- Shared investment in the student to IT professional pipeline with certificate and real world industry program opportunities.
- Strong relationships with the state government to elevate district needs to top decision makers.
- Empowering districts with seamless engagement solutions integration - such as video conferencing and desktop virtualization - for the ever-evolving digital classroom.

Network Security

- Industry expertise and resources for internet filtering and monitoring to conform to state and federal requirements keeping districts CIPA-compliant and safe.
- Real-time, cloud-based web filtering, scanning and monitoring to gain full visibility into students' online activity.
- Advanced end-to-end student safety solutions for digital devices in the classroom supporting above and beyond safety standards.
- Access to vulnerability prioritization and risk reduction tools to help achieve time savings and mitigate need for multiple software products.
- Professional cybersecurity consulting services catered to K-12 needs.
- Risk reduction and time savings with industry leading vulnerability scanning and assessment management tools.
- Comprehensive infrastructure, support and tools for K-12 user access and management.

When K-12 Schools and RENs work together, everyone wins

Visit www.thequilt.net/value to explore examples below of success achieved from collaboration between RENs and K-12 schools near and far. Visit our Member Page to engage with your regional Research and Education Network today.

You can find the REN in your state at www.thequilt.net/members