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Network Services - UCaaS - Structured Cabling – WIFI – VoIP Phone Systems

## K-12 Network Security with Fortinet Firewall

Our [last newsletter](#) introduced the concept of including a firewall with the internet service request on your Form 470.

- USAC confirms it will be a Category 1 expense reimbursable at your e-rate percentage, reserving your limited category 2 dollars for other equipment
- As we utilized technology to support greater remote learning, we have enlarged the attack surface for hackers to potentially penetrate
- Obtaining the firewall from the ISP uses their skilled security engineers to manage and monitor your network defenses



## FirstComm and Fortinet

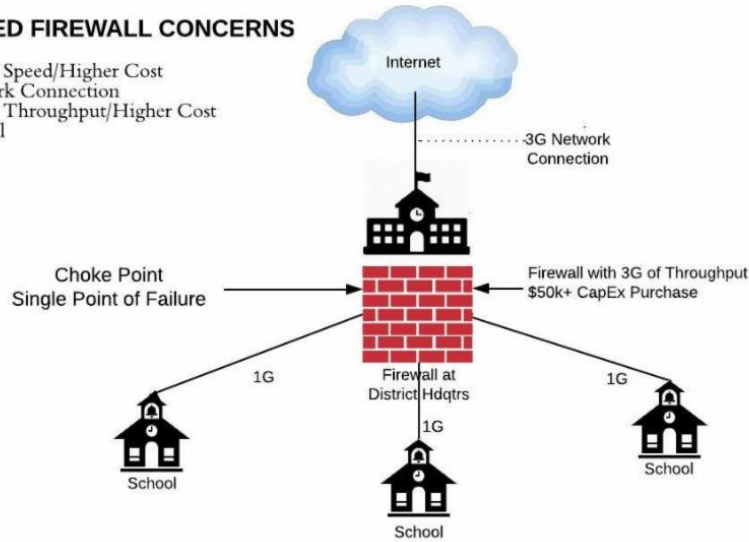
FirstComm offers the complete line of Fortinet firewalls to meet the needs of your district.

- You can add a managed **Fortinet Firewall** for as little as **\$50 a month\***. When bundled with your network, we have confirmed with USAC that it is **fully eligible for Category 1 E-rate funding**.
- FirstComm will include the firewall on your monthly internet service bill so it is easily identifiable as a Category 1 expense.
- They typically provide a firewall at each of your school sites; primary school can be configured differently than high school.

\*The Fortinet model 40F provides 600 megabits of throughput at just \$50/month

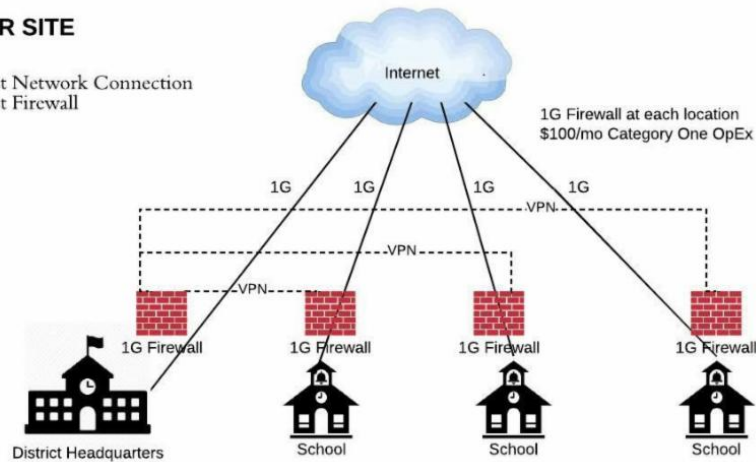
**CENTRALIZED FIREWALL CONCERNS**

- Higher Speed/Higher Cost Network Connection
- Higher Throughput/Higher Cost Firewall



**FIREWALL PER SITE**

- Lower Cost Network Connection
- Lower Cost Firewall



- Firewall managed by the carrier's network security engineers
- Each school's firewall configured for its needs: Primary, Middle School, High School
- No over-subscription; each school can have full bandwidth to internet
- Category 1 Funding vs Category 2
- No single point of failure
- Secure VPN (Virtual Private Network) for district administrative data

**Benefits of Having a Firewall at Each Site**

Each site has direct internet access rather than routing traffic through a central site firewall and potential choke point in your network.

The firewall at each site can be much more economical by avoiding a single central firewall with massive data throughput capabilities.

The overall network can be more economical by providing each school with a direct internet connection rather than routing all traffic through a higher speed and more expensive connection at a central site.

The Fortinet will create a VPN connection between your sites for your administrative data network

Contact us for assistance in determining your internet and firewall requirements and to obtain a combined internet service and firewall proposal from FirstComm.

NexGen's engineers, several of whom are IT staff members at large educational facilities, can help you with all of your technology upgrades. For more information, contact Jack Bush at 847-459-1220 or [jbush@sandgcom.com](mailto:jbush@sandgcom.com)



NexGen / S&G Communications is an E-rate approved vendor.

NexGen Services/S&G Communications

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