

Executive Summary of Public Law 110-385  
(As related to K-12 Education)

**Public Law 110-385 explanations:**

A substantial portion of this piece of federal legislation deals with the readiness of our states to offer quality and affordable broadband (including wireless) services to its schools and citizens.

The law mandates that the FTC do assessments and report back to Washington on the state of our states regarding broadband readiness. It also cites the Comptroller General's office in these research and reporting tasks.

**1492 / Public Law 110-385**

“To improve the quality of Federal and State data regarding the availability and quality of broadband services and to promote the deployment of affordable broadband services to all parts of the Nation. (Oct. 10, 2008; 122 Stat. 4096; 10 pages)”

Specific mandates for Internet Safety Awareness campaigns are issued in the law to the FTC and Secretary of Commerce as stated in Title II. For example, the Secretary of Commerce for Communications is to establish an Online Safety Working Group to review and evaluate Internet Safety stuff as outline in the excerpt below:

**Title II: Protecting Children** - Protecting Children in the 21st Century Act - **Subtitle A: Promoting a Safe Internet for Children** - (Sec. 211) Declares that the issue of Internet safety includes issues regarding the use of the Internet in a manner that promotes safe online activity for children, protects children from cybercrimes, including crimes by online predators, and helps parents shield their children from material that is inappropriate for minors.

(Sec. 212) Directs the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) to carry out a nationwide program to increase public awareness and provide education on strategies to promote safe Internet use by children. Requires annual reports to specified congressional committees.

(Sec. 214) Directs the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information to establish an Online Safety and Technology working group to review and evaluate: (1) the status of industry efforts to promote online safety for children; (2) the status of industry efforts to promote online safety by service providers and remote computing services by reporting apparent child pornography under specified provisions; (3) the record-keeping practices of electronic communications and remote computing service providers in connection with crimes against children; and (4) the development of technologies to help parents protect their children from inappropriate material on the Internet. Requires the working group to report to the Assistant Secretary and specified congressional committees.

### **Responsibilities of Districts and public learning institutions (K12 and libraries) in the law:**

Section 215 of the law states that amendments were made to some really old laws instituted to protect youth (1934) to include educating K-12 students on safe and appropriate online activities. This is the part of the law this is of most interest to schools and libraries. Here is where schools/districts are mandated to offer student awareness instruction

**"(Sec. 215)** Amends the Communications Act of 1934 to require elementary and secondary schools with computer access to the Internet to educate minors about appropriate online behavior, including online interaction with other individuals in social networking web sites and in chat rooms and cyber-bullying awareness and response."

**"Subtitle B: Enhancing Child Pornography Enforcement - (Sec. 221)** Amends the Communications Act of 1934 to impose a forfeiture penalty on any person determined by the FCC to have violated specified provisions relating to the sexual exploitation of minors."