

*Richmond Heights Local Schools*

*447 Richmond Road, Richmond Heights, OH 44143 • Phone: 216-692-0086 • Fax: 216-692-2820*

*“It’s a New Day for the Richmond Heights Way”*

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Chairman Ajit Pai  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street SW  
Washington, DC 20554

October 23, 2017

Dear Chairman Pai,

I would like to bring to your attention the recent Federal Communications Commission’s (FCC) Public Notice which, among other things, considers changes to the E-Rate program. I thank the FCC for its continued support of the E-Rate program and the critical programmatic and policy changes the commission adopted in 2014. The E-Rate program is critical to assist schools (like mine) in obtaining affordable telecommunications and internet access.

Our school district is focused on improving the education of students through the use of technology as teaching and learning tools. As a result of funding sources like the E-rate program we have been able to transition into a Google School System as well as transform classrooms into a 1:1 teaching and learning environment. The E-rate program has allowed us to increase our Internet Bandwidth and Internal Connections so that applications like Google Classroom, professional development initiatives and online state testing requirements can be met and utilized effectively. We qualify as an 80% E-rate school district. E-rate dollars are a critical funding source to education programs like our Online High School, AP Computer Science Classes, Credit Recovery, Blended Learning, Digital Music Studio, iMac Lab, and Summer Extension Techie Club. Additionally in 2015 our district converted its traditional library space into a 21st Century Technology Hub. Without E-rate as a major funding source in our district many of these important education programs could not have been achieved.

As far as our district is concerned, the E-Rate program is a success. As the FCC moves forward with this public notice, it must consider that E-Rate is an effective program. Any changes to the program should be focused on the expansion of this successful program, as well as give the changes adopted by the FCC in 2014 the time to progress and play out as intended.

E-Rate played a critical role in the rapid and significant expansion of connectivity in schools, and the changes adopted by the FCC in 2014 were a much-needed modernization to ensure more schools and libraries are connected to broadband. Additionally, the E-Rate’s investment in Category 2 Wi-Fi and internal connections funding is invaluable and could not be funded by the school, district or state.

1. *Your school or district has already used some or all of its E-Rate Category 2 allotment for the following items… The connectivity provided by these Category 2 items has improved our school or district’s educational experience in the following ways…* The E-rate program has allowed us to increase our Internet Bandwidth and Internal Connections so that applications like Google Classroom, professional development initiatives and online state testing requirements can be met and utilized effectively. Moving forward, we must be in position to maintain, improve and increase our efforts to keep students and teachers engaged and able to access data and educational applications from any device that has Internet access; promoting an anywhere at anytime style of learning.

My district both supports and relies on the E-Rate program to access and afford high-speed connectivity which is critical to a modern education. Thank you for considering these comments.

Sincerely,

John W. Scott

Treasurer