



Daviess County Public Schools



Chairman Ajit Pai
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW,
Washington, DC 20554
October XX, 2017

Dear Chairman Pai,

I am writing today in response to the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) Public Notice which, among other things, considers changes to the E-Rate program. Before delving into my response to the proposed changes, I want to thank the FCC for your continued support for the E-Rate program and for the critical programmatic and policy changes the commission adopted in 2014. The E-Rate program provides critical discounts to assist schools (like mine) to obtain affordable telecommunications and internet access.

Our district is the largest school district in the greater Owensboro surrounding communities, with nearly 12,000 students and 2400 employees. We are a unique mix of urban and rural features, spanning a large geographical percentage of Daviess County, Kentucky. Our F/R population is approximately 52% and recent trends point to an expectation of growing poverty. We are very fortunate to have benefitted from comprehensive eRate support, especially over the last decade. These funds are absolutely critical to our success. Whether it is through our continued ability to provide high quality learning opportunities to all students or providing top-line professional development for our teachers, we depend on the annual support as we seek to thrive in the ever-changing and exciting world of K-12 technology advancement.

The E-Rate program is a program succeeding in its mission. As the FCC moves forward with this public notice, it is prudent to remain focused on the fact that E-Rate is a program that works. Any changes to the E-Rate program should be focused on expanding a successful program that has yet to reach its full potential and ensuring the FCC remains a good steward of the changes adopted 2014, allowing those changes to progress and play out as intended.

E-Rate played a critical role is the rapid and significant expansion of connectivity in schools, and the 2014 modernization was a much-needed update to ensure more schools and libraries are connected to broadband. The E-Rate's investment in Category 2 Wi-Fi and internal connections funding is extremely valuable and could not be replaced by school, district or state funds.

Daviess County Schools embarked on a 1-1 laptop project 10+ years ago, adding a class year of students every year or so. A significant component of this project was building out the necessary wireless infrastructure. E-Rate, especially the 2014 revision, gave us the resources to put a wireless access point in every classroom and create the switched network to support them. Supporting students and teachers using thousands of devices on over 700 access points would not have been impossible without E-Rate Category 2.

Superintendent –Matt Robbins

Daviess County Board of Education

Mike Clark Dr. Tom Payne Frank G. Riney III Dale Stewart Todd Anderson

1622 Southeastern Parkway Owensboro KY 42303

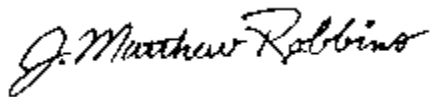
www.dcps.org phone: 270-852-7000 fax: 270-852-7030 contact@dcps.org

The addition of a student-friendly infrastructure allows teachers to plan instructional activities that bring students into the 21st century. Our students are preparing for careers and postsecondary education not possible without access to an Internet-ready device and the network afforded to the district via eRate Category 2 funds. These funds are an investment into our future economy.

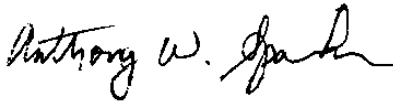
Our district has planned wisely with the current allotment of funds bringing many dated devices up to speed. What we have remaining in our current application cycle, we have firm plans to put into place. However, as our district moves into tomorrow's unknown technology and to build and expand new schools in the coming years, we fear the impact of building out that infrastructure without eRate support.

In closing, I reiterate my district's continued, strong support for and reliance upon the E-Rate program for being able to access and afford the high-speed connectivity that is so central to our students' learning. Thank you for considering these comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J. Matthew Robbins". The script is cursive and fluid.

Matt Robbins, Superintendent

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anthony W. Sparks". The script is cursive and fluid.

Anthony Sparks, CIO

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Burton". The script is cursive and fluid.

Steve Burton, Computer Operations Manager

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Aaron Yeiser". The script is cursive and fluid.

Aaron Yeiser, Technology Integration Specialist