



**In the Matter of:**

Wireline Competition Bureau Seeking )  
Comments on E-rate Category Two )

WC Docket No. 13-184

The Durham County Library system in Durham, North Carolina recently relied on E-rate Category Two funding to help us upgrade the network in each of our six library locations. Durham County has a diverse community which includes a large percentage of low income population. Notably, 66% of Durham County public school students qualified for free or reduced lunch during the 2016-2017 school year. For many students, the library is the only place they are able to reliably connect to the internet outside of school. We regularly see families accessing the library's internet to help with school work, search and apply for jobs, or communicate with family. At this point, a library without reliable internet access is almost like a library without books.

Prior to our network upgrade, one of the most-frequent complaints from library patrons was that the wireless network was virtually unusable because of the outdated network switches, circuits, and access points. Category Two funding covered 80% of the cost of upgrading all of these network components. Over the course of about six months, we were able to more than triple the amount of devices that are able to connect to our wireless network and increase speeds for both wired and wireless access – all with the help of E-rate funding.

After the upgrade, one of our patrons who had complained in the past about our wireless network wrote:

I just wanted to follow up and say that I was just at the North Regional Library this morning, and my internet connection was easy and fast. It seems like since I last wrote to you about this issue, you guys have worked really hard to fix the ongoing internet problems. I can't tell you how much I appreciate this! Thank you very much.

Please maintain secure funding through the full five year budget period as adopted during the 2014 Modernization. Durham County Library and many more libraries rely on that funding.