



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

October 23, 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. First, I would like to thank the FCC for your continued support for the E-Rate program and for the policy changes, the commission adopted in 2014. The E-Rate program has provided significant discounts assisting schools and school districts (like ours) to obtain affordable telecommunications and internet access.

For example in our district, E-Rate has provided discounts allowing us replace vastly outdated network communications equipment across our entire district. The equipment replaced was nearly 10 years old. We would not have been able to afford such a major equipment refresh without the help of the E-Rate program. We live in a small, but urban city with a very high poverty rate. Our district's shared E-Rate discount percentage is 85% low income with a couple of individual schools rated at a 90% discount percentage. The E-Rate program has been critical in discounting voice services, network equipment refreshes, as well as network wiring over the years.

The E-Rate program is succeeding in its mission. As the FCC moves forward with this public notice, we request the commission remain 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 as intended.

E-Rate played a critical role in the rapid and significant expansion of connectivity in schools. The 2014 modernization was an extremely helpful 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.

Our school district, specifically, has utilized nearly 90% of our Category 2 allotment in 2014 to upgrade district-wide Ethernet switching electronics. This is the equipment which drives our enterprise wireless infrastructure which is was installed in 2011-2012 thanks to past E-Rate funding. We plan to use the remaining Category 2 budget to replace key wireless infrastructure components to provide an upgrade path for us. Our existing wireless infrastructure is now over 5 years old and will need to be replaced soon. Without E-Rate assistance, this will be a long and painful process; one that would end with a mixture of equipment brands with little to no manageability.

In closing, I reiterate my district's continued support for and reliance upon the E-Rate program for being able to affordably access high-speed Internet connectivity crucial to our students' learning, who would not otherwise have such access. Thank you for considering these comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dale Weaver". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Dale" and last name "Weaver" clearly distinguishable.

Dale Weaver
CIO/Director of IT
Paducah Ind Schools