

I have been working for five Educational Broadband Service (EBS) licensees for more than 15 years. When I started, and before Instructional Television Fixed Service (ITFS) became EBS, we provided free, instructional video programming to schools. The rule (that is still on the books today) requiring licensees to provide 20 hours per week per channel of programming meant we transmitted 80 hours of high-quality educational programming each week to schools in eleven cities across the country. We provided this service at no cost to schools and even secured rights that allowed the schools to record the broadcasts and use them at their convenience. This was before YouTube and other free, online video platforms made video content ubiquitous. For schools with limited resources, we were an invaluable way to bring rich and diverse content to their classrooms. Programs like “Reading Rainbow”, “Affluenza”, “Body Image”, “Math Monsters” and my favorite, “In Search of the Edge”. And many, many more.

Fast forward to today and these same licensees continue to make a difference for students and teachers across the country. The public-private partnership we have with Sprint allows us to offer free broadband access and devices valued at more than \$1.3 million. Make no mistake, current EBS licensees are playing a part in bridging the homework gap specifically and the digital divide more generally.

The FCC should:

- Keep “education” in EBS. EBS has provided substantial benefits to educators for nearly 50 years. Since 1963, this band has always been intended for educational use.
- Modernize the rules for the broadband world and deliver an even greater benefit to students, schools and communities.
- Allow new educational entities and nonprofits to acquire licenses and serve their communities. The freeze on licenses since 1995 has denied many communities an opportunity to connect their students and residents. Selling these licenses without giving these schools a chance would be a policy mistake/disaster.

The FCC should not:

- Privatize EBS and allow licenses to be sold to wireless carriers. EBS is one of the few bands that is dedicated to public or nonprofit use.
- Punish licensees for complying with its rules. Even given the limited requirements, we have provided consistent, necessary service for decades.