

**CLINTON CITY SCHOOL SYSTEM**

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To Whom It May Concern:

Clinton City Schools would like to provide some “in the trenches” input regarding the future of E-Rate funding. Our system is highly dependent on this funding source in order to continue providing the necessary infrastructure for quality student education.

Over the past few years, the funding for voice has become obsolete within the E-rate funding formula. As you well know, voice service is required of each school system in order to adequately communicate with parents, community members, staff members, etc. Above all, it is essential for maintain school safety. Eliminating E-rate funding for voice has become an additional burden on our school system, requiring us to take funds away from student instruction in order to pay.

Our projected cost for voice this year is $22,173.73. If E-rate funding were still available for voice, we would see a savings of 80% (which is $17,738.98). This is a significant amount of money for our small district. When this funding was lost, we were required to make some tough decisions regarding how we would absorb this cost. Implementing voice services back into E-rate funding would allow me to reinstate the teaching assistant that was lost in our system. This position is of utmost importance because they provide quality interventions to struggling students. It is painful to have to take away student services to pay for voice when E-rate was a successful program in which districts benefited.

I urge you to re-evaluate the decision regarding the loss of funding for voice services. If we could regain this funding, we would be able to reinstate much needed student services. We appreciate the support that E-rate provides our district and hope that our feedback is taken under careful consideration.

Sincerely,

Kelly D. Johnson

Director of Schools