7/25/19

To Whom It May Concern:

The E-Rate program has been incredibly beneficial for each of the school districts I have been employed with through the years. Improving student access to technology and ensuring that school districts have a robust technology infrastructure is incredibly important in our rapidly changing world, where globalization and technology are prime drivers. There are many different ways that districts utilize E-Rate funds. Most recently in Indianola CSD, hundreds of thousands of E-Rate dollars helped us complete necessary infrastructure replacements like switches and access points. These are the kind of unseen things that dramatically impact the educational experience for students.

I am most concerned about the proposal to pair school technology needs with rural health care needs within E-Rate funding. Having lived and spent a good deal of my educational life in rural Iowa, I understand the need for rural health care providers. However, it doesn’t seem that schools and clinics should be in competition with each other in applying for these funds. I urge decision makers to reconsider organizing in this way.

E-Rate has been tremendously beneficial and helpful, and I hope that this support will continue to be available. Thank you for receiving my comments.

Sincerely,



Art Sathoff, Indianola CSD Superintendent