



BUCKEYE

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT #33

A community passionate about student success

July 22, 2019

The purpose of this letter is to respectfully express our opposition to the current proposal to place a cap on the Federal Universal Service Fund. The proposal would pair E- Rate with Rural Health Care under a single cap, threatening access to critical funding that our district relies upon to provide equitable access to modern learning opportunities.

E-Rate dollars play a critical role in school connectivity in a world increasingly reliant upon broadband access. In the Buckeye Elementary School District, our students have benefited greatly from access to this funding. For example, E-Rate dollars have made it possible to:

- Update internal switches to modern and necessary 10 gigabyte speeds
- Provide robust and needed WiFi service throughout all of our schools
- Install WiFi access points per room, allowing for reliable connection during important state (AzMerit) testing and live streaming video for instructional purposes

E-rate's current format has been an equalizer, allowing our District to upgrade all of our schools with reliable technology equipment and services that can support the needs of our students. E-Rate is an utter necessity for school districts who are attempting to provide equitable access to a modern curriculum. Without it, we would not be able to meet the ever-increasing demand to sustain or expand bandwidth and provide desperately needed hardware for the children and educators of our community.

In light of this, we urge you to oppose the proposal to place a cap on the Federal Service Fund. As health care costs continue to increase, E-Rate will undoubtedly suffer under this scenario.

Thank you for your careful consideration of this issue.

Respectfully,

Dr. Kristi Sandvik

Dr. Kristi Sandvik