8/10/2019

ERATE PROPOSED RULE MAKING

WC 13-184

As a service provider in the NY area for many years, I would like to offer a few comments to the proposed rule making.

* First and foremost, were it not for the ERATE program, the neediest schools would never have been able to achieve any technology infrastructure.
* We work with many schools where if it was not for the availability of their basic maintenance, they would not be able to afford the proper maintenance and upkeep of their funded equipment. Schools without basic maintenance funding would not have the funds in order to request service for their eligible Cat 2 equipment.
* New schools in many cases start their operation filling one grade and then when that grade moves up, another lower grade is brought in. So their initial student count is considerably lower than what it will be once the school is fully populated. To install an I.T. infrastructure for a few classrooms and then go back the following year to add facilities to other rooms or an additional floor, ends up costing more in the long run. Sometimes “cheap” is “expensive” in the long run.
* With the current funding at $159.00 per student, over a five year period, we have seen some schools looking to utilize much lower quality equipment in order to “get by”. I believe the $159.00 per student budget does not allow the entity to adequately fund their technology.

Best,

Robert Ordan, President

Knight Nets Inc.