

Dan Riley

Educational TV Director

Plymouth Public Schools

Plymouth, MA

Plymouth EDTV appreciates the opportunity to file comments on the Second Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking. We strongly oppose the conclusions in the notice that cable-related in-kind contributions are franchise fees and that local governments have no authority regarding cable operators’ use of the rights of way to provide non-cable services.

Plymouth EDTV (Plymouth Public Schools Educational Television Program) is an organization that serves the school district of Plymouth Massachusetts, a coastal town of 60,000 people, forty miles south of Boston. Since our inception in 2008, EDTV has trained and supported thousands of students, staff and organizations in creating content about their schools and community.  But the most important thing that we do is educate students, all across the district, how to use their own voice in telling their community the information they feel is important to their generation.

Our video programs in Plymouth, which currently have over 250 students, has created numerous opportunities for graduates in the field of Mass Media. Many of which have graduated and pursued degrees in Communications and Journalism.  As a result, at news stations and production houses all across the country, are Plymouth students who have achieved their goals and dreams. All because of the foundation we provided here at EDTV. Without this program, many of these students would not have the avenues and open doors of opportunity to the subject they love.

Lastly, we’ve also worked with the staff of the Plymouth Public Schools to create programs for teacher’s district-wide that want to incorporate video and related subjects into their curriculum.  We are the “Window into the Schools” for many parents, grandparents, and overseas military personnel who can’t make important school events and need information about our district. EDTV covers 13 schools, many sporting events, concerts, theater performances, and live broadcasts of School Committee meetings on a consistent basis.  A total of 3,500 video productions since our inception.

The proposed rules by the FCC would be debilitating to EDTV and the community that we serve.  The reduction in funding would also result in a loss of jobs. EDTV currently has a   
full-time staff of five individuals as well as interns and student workers who want to pursue the communication field. Their calling in life is to help children with their education.  A loss of these jobs for people as caring as they are, is truly a tragedy.

In closing I want to thank the commission for allowing organizations like Plymouth EDTV to comment. This proposed rule would not only significantly impact organizations like ours, but also governments and non-profit organizations who we serve.