

BOARD OF EDUCATION

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West Babylon Schools

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October 28, 1996

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW Room 814
Washington, DC 20554

RE: Docket # 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt:

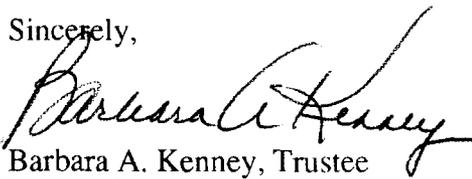
I write in strong support of affordable and meaningful discounts for all schools and libraries so that every school child and lifelong learner can have access to the world of information technology. The passage of the Telecommunications Act earlier this year mandates the development of a rate for education or an "E-rate" to secure affordable rates reflecting the financial capability of this community.

There is no doubt that advanced telecommunications services are important to improving learning, sparking the imagination and leveling the playing field for all of this nation's people. Affordable access to technology in all classrooms and libraries will assure that our children and lifelong learners can connect with the technology necessary to compete in today's and tomorrow's workforce. Advanced telecommunications services in the classroom will also create informed and skilled consumers of new technology well into the 21st century. Our district has already equipped every classroom with computers and an Internet connection.

As the Federal Communications Commission and the Federal-State Joint Board implement the universal serve provision I ask you to ensure that telecommunications companies provide services to schools and libraries at significantly discounted rates. All schools and libraries need long-term discounts that are truly affordable, flexible and offer choice in determining which services best meet each communities needs. It is imperative that these services are linked directly into the classroom, lab and work station.

I urge you to act upon this historic opportunity to bring the world of information to every school child and lifelong learner in America.

Sincerely,



Barbara A. Kenney, Trustee
Board of Education

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