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CC:96-45



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NOV 12 1996

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

October 9, 1996

The Honorable Read E. Hundt, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, NW Room 814  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Sir:

RE: CC Docket 96-45, Universal Service

I write in strong support of meaningful discounts for libraries and schools as the Federal Communications Commission and the Federal-State Joint Board implement the universal service provisions of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. In passing this landmark legislation, it is clear that Congress meant to ensure that, upon a bona fide request, a carrier must provide services to libraries and schools at a discounted rate, less than the amounts charged for similar services to other parties.

Libraries are responsible and accountable users of technology; they have in the past and will continue to efficiently leverage all resources available to them, but libraries need affordable, discounted access to best serve the American public. Deeper discounts will also be necessary for libraries in high cost and rural areas, and in low income communities to reach "affordability".

I encourage you to assure universal service for all Americans by providing discounted and equitable telecommunications rates for libraries and schools.

Sincerely,

*George Hoffmann*  
George Hoffmann  
President

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**PARKLAND COLLEGE**  
2400 WEST BRADLEY AVENUE CHAMPAIGN, IL 61821-1899 217/351-2231 FAX 217/351-2592

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Office of the President

**NOV 12 1996**

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

October 17, 1996

Mr. Reed E. Hundt, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, NW Room 814  
Washington, D.C. 20054

**RE: CC Docket 96-45, Universal Service**

Dear Mr. Hundt:

I am writing in strong support of meaningful discounts for schools (including colleges and universities) and libraries as the Federal Communications Commission and the Federal-State Joint Board implement the universal service provisions of the Telecommunications Act of 1996.

In passing this landmark legislation, it is clear that Congress meant to ensure that carriers provide services to schools and libraries at significantly discounted rates that are less than the amounts charged for similar services to other parties.

The outcome of this legislation will directly affect Parkland College's ability to serve learners in our district by continuing to develop our distance education programs. We have committed to expanding access to education for underserved learners through interactive video, Internet, and World Wide Web instruction.

Our College is also engaged in partnerships to increase collaboration with our K-12 school districts to strengthen school-to-work programs, and we are working closely with area business and industry to respond effectively to their needs for graduates who are ready for the technological workplace of the 21st Century.

Each of these initiatives requires that Parkland College finance leased line services from commercial providers. The current rates for these services make a college education via distance learning cost prohibitive for many of our learners.

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CO: 96-45

**Valley Stream High School District**

ONE KENT ROAD  
VALLEY STREAM, NEW YORK, 11582-3007

DR. DONALD A. HOWARD  
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

October 16, 1996

516-872-5601  
FAX 516-561-0548

**RECEIVED**

**NOV 12 1996**

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street NW, Room 814  
Washington, DC 10554

Re: Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt:

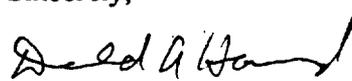
On behalf of the Board of Education, I write in strong support of affordable and meaningful discounts for all schools so that every school child can have access to the world of information technology. The passage of the Telecommunications Act earlier this year mandates the development of a rate for education 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 will assure that our children can connect with the technology needed 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.

As the Federal Communications Commission and the Federal-State Joint Board implement the universal serve provision, we ask you to ensure that telecommunications companies provide services to schools at significantly discounted rates. All schools 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.

We urge you to act upon this historic opportunity to bring the world of information to every school child in America.

Sincerely,



Donald A. Howard

mm

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1

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

P.O. Box 62142  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96839  
September 7, 1996

CC: 96-45 ✓

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

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NOV 12 1996

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

Dear Honorable Reed E. Hundt:

RE: CC Docket 96-45, Universal Service

I am writing in support of meaningful discounts for libraries and schools as the Federal Communications Commission and the Federal-State Joint Board implement the universal service provisions of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. In passing this landmark legislation, it is clear that Congress meant to ensure that, upon a bona fide request, a carrier is to provide services to libraries and schools at some type of discounted rate, less than the amounts charged for similar services to other parties.

As a school librarian and president of the Hawaii Association of School Librarians, I believe I can speak for my colleagues when I express strongly that libraries need an "equity rate". State budget cuts have made it very difficult to provide the level of service and resources we should for our students. Having an "equity rate" will enable us to serve as school community access points to the information infrastructure and to help libraries provide our students with an expanded range of information opportunities for lifelong learning. This "equity rate" will promote the use of new technologies while giving students new skills and technology literacy.

I am asking the you consider the compelling needs and services of libraries. I trust that you will make any terms and conditions for an equity rate simple and straight forward. Complicated procedures will only add to the costs of administration and further strain tight budgets. Your vigorous efforts to assure universal service for all Americans, by providing discounted and equitable telecommunications rates for libraries and schools, will support the very purpose of libraries... providing all Americans with access on a non-discriminatory basis to the full range of electronic information resources available.

Respectfully yours,



Faith Ishihara  
School Librarian

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September 11, 1996

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

*Western  
Illinois  
Education  
Consortium*

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NOV 12 1996

6600 34th Avenue  
Moline, IL 61265  
309/796-1311  
Fax: 309/792-1072

Dear Chairman Hundt:

RE: CC Docket 96-45, Universal Service

I write in strong support of meaningful discounts for libraries and schools (including colleges and universities) as the Federal Communications Commission and the Federal-State Joint Board implement the universal service provisions of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. In passing this landmark legislation, it is clear that Congress meant to ensure that carriers provide services to libraries and schools at significant discounted rates that are less than the amounts charged for similar services to other parties. Deeper discounts will also be necessary for libraries and schools in high cost and rural areas, and in low income communities to reach "affordability".

I encourage you to assure universal service for all Americans by providing discounted and equitable telecommunications rates for libraries and schools.

Sincerely,



Melissa Templeton  
WIEC Director

MEMBER INSTITUTIONS

- Black Hawk College
- Carl Sandburg College
- CONVOCOM
- Grad Center
- Highland Community College
- John Wood Community College
- Sauk Valley Community College
- Spoon River Community College
- Western Illinois University

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

- Cambridge High School
- Freeport High School
- JD Darnall High School
- Maytag Refrigeration Products
- Rock Island Arsenal
- Rushville High School
- Trinity Medical Center
- University of Illinois

W•I•E•C STAFF

Melissa Templeton, Director  
Extention, 1350  
templetonm@bhc1.bhc.edu

Administrative Assistant  
Extention, 1351

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*Joining Forces to  
Make a Difference*

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Roland Park Country School



5204 Roland Avenue □ Baltimore, Maryland 21210  
(410) 323-5500 FAX (410) 323-2164

Jean Waller Brune, Head of School

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

October, 1996

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Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street NW Room 814  
Washington, DC 20054

CC: Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I write in strong support of affordable and meaningful discounts on telecommunication services for all schools and libraries so that every school child and life-long 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, an "e-rate", to secure affordable rates reflecting the financial capability of the 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 life-long learners can connect with the technology needed 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.

As the Federal Communications Commission and the Federal-State Joint Board implement the **universal service provision** I ask you to **ensure that telecommunications companies provide services to school 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 community's 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,

*D. Spence Lische*

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I Fishman

HIGHLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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September 12, 1996  
Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

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

Dear Mr. Hundt:

RE: CC Docket 96-45, Universal Service

I write in strong support of meaningful discounts for libraries and schools (including colleges and universities) as the Federal Communications Commission and the Federal-State Joint Board implements the universal service provisions of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. In passing this landmark legislation, it is clear that Congress meant to ensure that carriers provide services to libraries and schools at significantly discounted rates that are less than the amounts charged for similar services to other parties. To be affordable, deeper discounts will also be necessary for libraries and schools in high cost and rural areas and in low income communities.

I encourage you to assure universal service for all Americans by providing discounted and equitable telecommunications rates for libraries and schools.

Please convey these recommendations to the FCC and the Federal-State Joint Board. Thank you for your attention to this matter of considerable importance to the schools, libraries, and users in your state.

Sincerely,

*Ruth Mercedes Smith*

Ruth Mercedes Smith  
President

RMS:jed

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EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

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NOV 12 1996

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

October 7, 1996

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street NW Room 814  
Washington, DC 20054

CC: Docket No. 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 life-long 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. Affordable access to technology in all classrooms and libraries will assure that our children and life-long learners can connect with the technology needed to compete in today's and tomorrow's workforce.

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,

Mary & Joe Formwald  
1141 Parsley Terrace  
Sturgis, S.D. 57785

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00:46-45

October 22, 1996

Wilma J. Schaack  
208 N. 10th  
Mascoutah IL 62258

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NOV 12 1996

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

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

Dear Mr. Hundt,

As a library trustee for the past twenty years I have seen many changes in Library services. At one time our book budget was the largest line item in our budget but with the increase demand for Internet access and automated services from the home our monthly telephone bill is becoming a major expense item. The Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996 suggests that the Federal Communication Commission require carriers to provide some discounted phone rates to schools and libraries.

We are a small community within a very small phone district which means every time we pick up the phone to call outside our 8 mile town radius it is long distance. High telecommunication rates are the largest barrier to achieving full electronic access to information in our area, southern Illinois. We need to have some form of equity rates for libraries and schools. As a tax exempt entity I have always wonder why libraries pay such high taxes on our phone and other utilities. Are we not exempt from those taxes also?

I urge you and your committee to provide a discount rate and tax exempt status from all taxes on utilities for libraries and schools. It costs me 32 cents to mail this letter to you and the cost is the same in all areas, across the street or across the country, **why not the same playing field in telecommunications?**

Sincerely,



Wilma J Schaack  
Mascoutah Public Library  
Board of Trustees

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23 Willow Street  
Basking Ridge, NJ 07920  
October 18, 1996

The Honorable Reed E. Hundt, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
Washington, DC 20554

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NOV 12 1996

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

Dear Sir :

RE: CC Docket 96-45, Universal Service

I write in strong support of meaningful discounts for libraries and schools as the Federal Communications Commission and the Federal-State Joint Board implement the universal service provisions of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. In passing this landmark legislation, it is clear that Congress meant to ensure that, upon a bona fide request, a carrier must provide services to libraries and schools at a discounted rate, less than the amounts charged for similar services to other parties.

Libraries need such an equity rate to enable libraries to serve as community access points to the information infrastructure and to help libraries provide the American public with an expanded range of information opportunities for lifelong learning, work and career development, job hunting, and citizenship. This equity rate will spur library use of new technology and encourage development of new consumer markets while providing consumers with opportunity to gain new skills and technological literacy at their libraries.

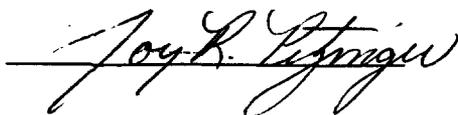
To provide libraries with the flexibility to meet community needs, all telecommunications services available commercially, by tariff, or by contract should be available to them at a discount. Libraries need the capacity to support large numbers of simultaneous users and multi-media and high bandwidth applications. Libraries are increasingly the provider of local community electronic information.

Libraries are responsible and accountable users of technology; they have in the past and will continue to efficiently leverage all resources available to them, but libraries need affordable, discounted access to best serve the American public. Deeper discounts will also be necessary for libraries in high cost and rural areas, and in low income communities to reach "affordability".

I ask that you consider what libraries are telling you about their local needs, including the necessity of making any terms and conditions for an equity rate, simple and straight forward. We do not need to add to the costs of administration or local library budgets by onerous or complicated procedures to obtain a discounted rate.

I encourage you to assure universal service for all Americans by providing discounted and equitable telecommunications rates for libraries and schools.

Sincerely,



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October 22, 1996

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

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Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

Re; Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt,

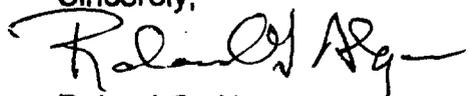
I am writing in strong support of providing significant and affordable discounts for all schools and libraries in Wisconsin so that all students can have access to information on the Internet. The passage of the Telecommunications Act earlier this year requires that a special rate for education be created to enable school districts to obtain affordable technology services.

As the Federal Communications Commission and the federal-state Joint Board implement the universal service provision, I am asking that you take steps to ensure that telecommunications companies provide services to schools and libraries at significantly discounted rates. I full well realize that with ninety plus different telephone companies in Wisconsin, this will be a challenging task. However, there are times when the "common good" benefits derived from an action outweigh cost benefits and profit margins.

Schools need long term discounts that are affordable and flexible. Those discounts should offer a choice in determining which services best meet each community's needs. It is imperative that these services go beyond the school house door and directly into the classroom.

The Ripon School District is in the process of making provisions for networking our computer labs and bringing Internet access to all of our students. Reducing the cost of telephone lines and monthly fees will certainly assist our efforts in bringing the information highway to our students.

This is an important issue. You have important decisions to make. I urge you to act on behalf of all the children that will benefit from your action.

Sincerely,  
  
Roland G. Alger  
Principal

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**John A. Scatizzi, Ed.D.**  
Assistant Superintendent for  
Curriculum and Instruction

Administrative Center  
111 East North Street  
Eureka, MO 63025-1229

(314) 938-5225  
(314) 938-6348 Fax

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NOV 12 1996

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

September 6, 1996

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, N.W., Room 814  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Hundt:

It is very important every school has affordable access to the information highway. The full implementation of the new Telecommunications Act would accomplish this task. Under the current status, the rates are simply not affordable for schools and libraries. An education rate is an appropriate approach to providing for this access.

Our students need access to technology to ensure that they have effective learning opportunities and are able to compete in the global economy we live today. Only through affordable access to the information highway can this happen.

I urge you to make affordable long term discounts available to schools and libraries and provide them the flexibility to determine which telecommunications services are best for their needs.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

John A. Scatizzi, Ed.D.  
Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction

JAS:ejb

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1815 Prindle Drive  
Bel Air, Maryland 21015  
October 11, 1996

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street NW Room 814  
Washington, DC 20554  
cc Docket No. 96-45

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NOV 12 1996

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

Dear Chairman Hundt,

I strongly support affordable discounts for all schools and libraries so that every child can have access to the world of information technology.

I am asking you, as Chairman, to ensure that telecommunications companies provide services to all schools and libraries at significantly discounted rates. All schools need long-term discounts that are truly affordable, flexible, and offer choice in determining which services best meet each community's needs. It is imperative that these services are linked directly into the classroom, lab, and work station.

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

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1 Sincerely,  
Janice Stevenson

11:46-45



A School with a Mission!

**Saint Joseph School**  
P.O. Box 3246  
43222 Mission Blvd.  
Mission San Jose, CA 94539-032  
(510) 656-6525

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NOV 12 1996

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

October 1996

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

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I write in strong support of equal access of technology for all students through affordable and meaningful discounts for all schools and libraries. The Telecommunications Act passed earlier this year provides of an affordable "e-rate". This service is essential for the affordable access of technology for our school to assure continued improvement in learning.

I urge you to ensure that telecommunications companies provide services to all school, private and public, and libraries at discounted rates. We need long term discounts that are truly affordable, flexible and offer choice in services. These services must be linked directly to the classroom and lab.

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

Sincerely,

Sister Barbara Hagel, OP  
Principal

e-mail: sttjoseph@plato.alamed-coe.k12.ca.us

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CC: 96-45

Roland Park Country School  
**RPCS**

5204 Roland Avenue □ Baltimore, Maryland 21210  
(410) 323-5500 FAX (410) 323-2164

Jean Waller Brune, Head of School

October, 1996

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Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street NW Room 814  
Washington, DC 20054

CC: Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I write in strong support of affordable and meaningful discounts on telecommunication services for all schools and libraries so that every school child and life-long 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, an "e-rate", to secure affordable rates reflecting the financial capability of the 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 life-long learners can connect with the technology needed 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.

As the Federal Communications Commission and the Federal-State Joint Board implement the **universal service provision** I ask you to ensure that **telecommunications companies provide services to school 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 community's 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,

Louisa J. Wyskiel

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5204 Roland Avenue □ Baltimore, Maryland 21210  
(410) 323-5500 FAX (410) 323-2164

Jean Waller Brune, Head of School

October, 1996

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street NW Room 814  
Washington, DC 20054

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Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

CC: Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt:

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As the Federal Communications Commission and the Federal-State Joint Board implement the **universal service provision** I ask you to **ensure that telecommunications companies provide services to school 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 community's needs. It is imperative that these services are linked directly into the classroom, lab and work station.

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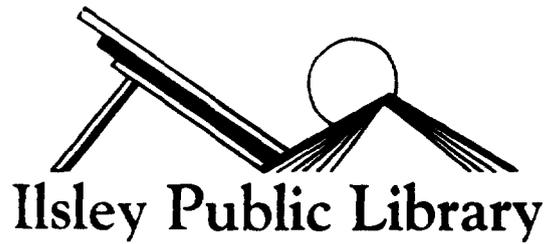
Sincerely,

*Edie A. Wendsa*  
Computer Department Head

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Ilsley Public Library

August 5, 1996

The Honorable Reed E. Hundt, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, NW Room 814  
Washington, D.C. 20554

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NOV 12 1996

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

Dear Mr. Hundt:

Public agencies in the Middlebury, Vermont, area have begun meeting to discuss telecommunications. I am beginning to realize how important the discounted telecommunications rates would be for the public library.

I urge your support for discounted rates for public libraries. We have been expanding our electronic services for residents who do not otherwise have access and we would hate to have to curtail services because we can't afford the telephone charges.

Sincerely,

*David Clark*

David Clark  
Director

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ILLINOIS  
Library Association



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Monday, 22 July 1996

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

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NOV 12 1996

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

Re: Federal Communications Commission CC Docket 96-45, Federal State  
Joint Board on Universal Service

Dear Mr. Hundt:

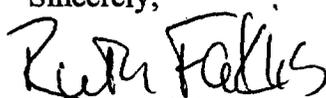
On behalf of the Illinois Library Association, I am writing to urge your strong support for discounted telecommunciations discounts. These discounts are vital to the ability of libraries and schools to fulfill their role as universal service providers as authorized by the Telecommunications Act of 1996. In passing this legislation, Congress recognized the key role of libraries in providing public access to the electronic information infrastructure and to ensure that carriers would provide services to libraries and schools at rates less than those charged to other parties.

If libraries are to provide the public with an expanded range of information opportunities, they must have the capacity for high bandwidth interactive and visual applications. Libraries are responsible and accountable users of technology. In the past, Illinois libraries have leveraged help and will continue to do so in the future. Meaningful discounts to the full range of telecommunication services available commercially will enable libraries to continue and expand their services in communities and in schools. Libraries in low income, rural and other high cost areas may need special provisions.

I know that you are hearing from many parties about how the Federal Communications Commission and the Joint Board should implement the universal service provisions. I strongly urge you to give serious attention to libraries and the proposals they are making directly and through the American Library Association.

Thank you very much for your attention to this matter which is of great importance to Illinois libraries.

Sincerely,

  
Ruth E. Faklis  
President

Executive Offices  
Suite 301  
33 W. Grand Ave.  
Chicago, Illinois  
60610-4306  
312-644-1896

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# MONTEREY COUNTY

## FREE LIBRARIES

26 Central Avenue, Salinas, California 93901-2628  
408-755-5838 FAX: 408-755-5839

DALLAS Y. SHAFFER  
COUNTY LIBRARIAN

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NOV 12 1996

August 1, 1996

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

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

Dear Chairman Hundt,

I am writing you to urge your support of discounted telecommunications rates for schools and libraries as authorized by the Telecommunications Act of 1996. In passing this legislation, it is clear that Congress recognized the key role of schools and libraries in providing public access to the electronic information infrastructure and acted to ensure that carriers would provide services to libraries and schools at rates less than those charged to other parties.

If libraries and schools are to provide the public with an expanded range of information opportunities, they must have the capacity for high bandwidth interactive and visual applications. Libraries and schools are responsible and accountable users of technology. They have and will continue to leverage every bit of collaborative and philanthropic help to accomplish their missions, but this is not enough to keep pace with public need. Meaningful discounts to the full range of telecommunication services available commercially will enable libraries and schools to continue to meet the public need for access to information which is so crucial to our democratic system of government.

As a librarian and a public service professional, I strongly urge you to give serious attention to libraries and the proposals they are making directly and through the American Library Association.

Sincerely,

Dallas Shaffer  
County Librarian

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**LIBRARIES**  
*for the*  
**FUTURE**

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To: The Honorable Reed E. Hundt  
Federal Communications Commission  
fax: 202-418-2801

From: Libraries for the Future

Date: August 2, 1996

Re: CC Docket 96-45 Universal Service

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NOV 12 1996  
Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

I am writing to urge your strong support for telecommunications discounts that will empower libraries and schools to fulfill their role as universal service providers as authorized by the Telecommunications Act of 1996. The next few months will be crucial in determining whether universal service provisions will guarantee a healthy, public telecommunications infrastructure.

Libraries for the Future (LFF) is a national non-profit organization that advocates on behalf of active and potential users of America's free public library system in order to enhance the relationship between libraries and the communities they serve. As a result, LFF is particularly concerned with the question of the resale of telecommunications services raised in Section 254 (h)(3) of the Telecommunications Act (referred to in questions number 10 and 11 of the FCC Public Notice, CC DOCKET 96-45, released July 3, 1996).

As Libraries for the Future demonstrates the central role public libraries can play in the communities they serve, we believe that it is essential that they have the greatest flexibility possible in sharing and reselling their telecommunications services. This flexibility would allow the public library to serve as an electronic communications hub, integrating the various organizations, groups and individuals comprising the community. Currently, many libraries are serving this function. However, if libraries that currently share these resources with other, non-qualifying institutions (such as non-profit community networks who may charge minimal fees for their services), or libraries that seek to build connections with such natural partners, are unable to qualify for universal service discounts, they will be forced to abandon these essential relationships. The intent of the legislation--to ensure public access to telecommunications services--would be greatly undermined.

Thank you very much for your attention to this matter which is of great importance to the library users across the country.

Sincerely,

Diantha Schull  
Executive Director

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cc: 96-45  
cc: [handwritten initials]

Ristiina Wigg  
Interim Executive Director

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August 7, 1996

Re: CC Docket 94-95 Universal Service

RECEIVED  
NOV 12 1996  
Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I urge your strong support for discounted telecommunications, discounts that will empower libraries and schools to fulfill their role as universal service providers as authorized by the Telecommunications Act of 1996. Libraries and schools should have rate relief from that charged other parties. Libraries play a key role in providing public access to the electronic information infrastructure for every citizen.

If libraries are to provide the public with an expanded range of information opportunities, they must have the capacity for high bandwidth interactive and visual applications. Meaningful discounts to the full range of telecommunication services available commercially will enable libraries to continue and expand their services in communities and in schools. Libraries in low income, rural and other high cost areas need special provisions.

I know that you are hearing from many parties about how the Federal Communications Commission and the Joint Board should implement the universal service provisions. I strongly urge you to give serious attention to libraries and the proposals they are making directly and through the American Library Association.

Here in the Hudson Valley, where the Mid-Hudson Library System serves 71 libraries, and through them the citizenry of the five counties of Columbia, Dutchess, Greene, Putnam, and Ulster, we especially need your help. Here in the East Coast Silicon Valley, no library should be in need.

Thank you for your help in the past. We hope you will have the vision for the future that makes universal service through libraries a real possibility.

Sincerely,

*Mary Keelan*

Mary Keelan, Director for Development  
& Resource Management

f:universal

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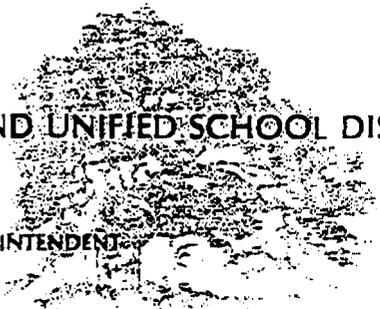
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MC 96-45

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OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT



ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

1025 Second Avenue  
Oakland, California 94606  
(510) 836-8200

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October 24, 1996

NOV 12 1996

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

Chairman Reed Hundt  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, N.W., Room 814  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Implementation of Discounts Related to Telecommunications Act

Dear Chairman Hundt:

This is to let you know that the Oakland Unified School District supports FCC efforts to provide telecommunications discounts to schools. We feel that discounts should apply to all telephone services used by the school district to provide equity in creating a learning environment for all children in Oakland.

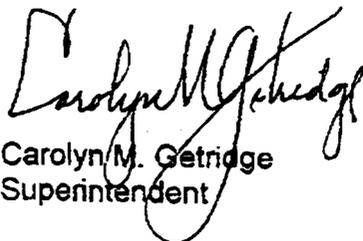
We have strong feelings that discounts should not be achieved through subsidies from the "Universal Fund", but through "unbundled" services and the competitive bid process. Implementation of the Universal Service Fund should be put "on-hold" until it can be determined how it can best be implemented.

This is a great opportunity to advance telecommunications technology through open and competitive markets to especially benefit schools and the public in general.

Attached are OUSD issues of concern regarding this subject in greater detail. Please call me if you need further clarification at (510) 879-8200.

Thank you for your assistance in this important matter.

Sincerely,

  
Carolyn M. Gettridge  
Superintendent

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cc: 96-45 ccb  
cc: Ira Friedman  
Ato

BOARD OF EDUCATION  
**West Babylon Schools**

[516] 321-3076

10 Farmingdale Road  
West Babylon, New York 11704-6289

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NOV 12 1996

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

May 29, 1996

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

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I am a school board trustee from West Babylon Union Free School District and I urge the Federal-State Joint Board and the FCC to adopt rules that fully and aggressively implement the universal service provisions of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 for schools and libraries. I also support the comments filed by the National School Boards Association, et. al. I request this letter be included in the formal record.

Specifically, I urge the FCC to include deep discounts for a range of telecommunications services that will give my school district more affordable access to the Internet as well as to interactive, voice, data and video capability necessary for distance learning. It is vitally important that these services be provided directly to the classroom where the learning actually takes place. Lastly, I urge the Commission to address the affordability needs both the capital expenses and the ongoing costs.

In West Babylon, a low wealth suburban school district of 4,450 students, our residents approved a bond issue to network our seven schools. We need help connecting to the Internet and a low cost monthly service option for our 300 classrooms. Already we see kindergartners using computers in the classroom to access language arts software. Students in grades 3-5 use Compton's electronic encyclopedia. Teachers design lessons to include heightened visualizations on computers and analog devices so that the students enhance long-term memory and the ability to conceptualize words and ideas. We know the future of our students will be determined by their abilities to access data, organize it into information, and translate it into a knowledgeable presentation

Technology in the classroom is critical to ensuring that our children can succeed in the high-tech world marketplace of the 21st century. I urge the Commission to adopt rules that will help bring the broadest range of educational technology to our school children.

Sincerely,

*Provi Ann Bennett*  
Provi Ann Bennett, Trustee

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August 21, 1996

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

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NOV 12 1996

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of General Counsel

RE: CC Docket #96-45; in the Matter of Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I write to you in your capacity as a member of the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service created by the Telecommunications Act of 1996. Community colleges across the country, particularly Pasco Hernando Community College and the 27 other community colleges in Florida, have a keen interest in how this new law will be implemented.

As you know, the law extends the benefits of universal service support to educational institutions at the elementary and secondary levels, and allows postsecondary institutions, among others, access to those benefits when working consortially with K-12 institutions. It is important that Pasco Hernando Community College have affordable access to these technologies not only in consortia with K-12 schools, but also in our own right.

More and more community colleges are providing instruction to their students through distance learning and other advanced methods of teaching. For us, this is an expensive proposition. Permitting Pasco Hernando Community College to benefit from universal service mechanisms will provide more students access to advanced telecommunications services. This access will enhance the value of our programs for our students.

The American Association of Community Colleges and the Association of Community College Trustees have submitted joint comments to the FCC asking that it adopt rules that include community colleges among the beneficiaries of universal service support. These comments are dated April 12 and May 8. I endorse these comments and hope that you will give them your utmost consideration..

Sincerely,

Robert W. Judson, Jr., Ed.D.  
President

East Campus/District Office  
36727 Blanton Road  
Dade City, FL 33525-7599  
(904) 567-6701

North Campus  
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Brooksville, FL 34601-8698  
(904) 796-6726

West Campus  
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New Port Richey, FL 34654-5199  
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August 21, 1996

Honorable Reed E. Hundt, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, N.W., Room 814  
Washington, D.C. 20554

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NOV 12 1996

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

Dear Commissioner Hundt:

I am writing to urge that schools and libraries of the nation receive the lowest possible telecommunications rates so that we can be the access points for the ever-growing amount of electronically available information for all citizens.

As you know, the new Telecommunications Act includes libraries as providers and tools for universal service and eligible for discounted telecommunications rates, and we take our responsibility for serving everyone very seriously.

We are working with the Oklahoma Corporation Commission to be sure we do everything we can locally, but would greatly appreciate your assistance at the national level in providing policies which will permit us to keep from having a huge portion of the population who are information "have-nots."

Sincerely,

Jan Keene  
Asst. Director

jk

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