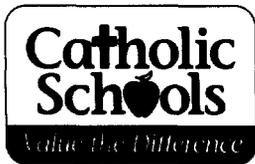


CCo 96-45



DIOCESE OF FORT WAYNE - SOUTH BEND

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS OFFICE

P.O. BOX 390 • FORT WAYNE, INDIANA 46801 • (219) 422-4611

FAX: (219) 420-6306 • CONNECT ID: FWACSO

March 3, 1997

DOCKET FILED OFFICIAL EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M St. NW, Room 814
Washington, D.C. 20054

CC: Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I am writing in support of meaningful discounts on telecommunications services for schools and libraries so that every school child and life-long learner can have access to the world of information technology. The Telecommunications Act – through its Universal Service Fund provisions – mandates the development of special discount rates for all schools and libraries so they can secure services at affordable prices.

Last November, the Federal-State joint Board on Universal Service sent to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) a set of recommendations for implementing the Universal Service Fund provisions related to schools and libraries. These recommendations would give our learning institutions significant discounts on all services that are commercially available, with deeper discounts for those schools and libraries least able to pay and more expensive to service. All schools would get discounts on connections to classrooms and Internet connectivity, both of which are essential to providing the most advanced learning opportunities to the greatest number of students.

I represent the Catholic schools of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend with forty elementary schools and four high schools serving 14,000 students in northeastern Indiana. Without discounts on internal wiring and Internet, access services will not be affordable for many of our Catholic schools, especially the rural schools. In addition, Catholic schools are excluded from most local/state funded initiatives for purchase of technology hardware and, for this reason, are at a significant disadvantage. National education surveys indicate that Catholic school classroom access to computers and connectivity is at least 50% behind that of its public school counterparts.

As you are well aware, integrating technology into the curriculum requires advanced telecommunications service and access for all classrooms. Each of our forty-four schools is currently developing a technology plan as a result of our recently published diocesan technology plan.

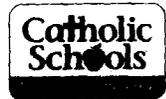
I urge your support for the Joint Board's recommendations. Taken as a whole, they will provide affordable discounts for a full range of services, and give schools and libraries flexibility in choosing the services needed to meet each community's diverse needs. Most importantly, these provisions, if adopted by the FCC, will make advanced technology for learning available to all Americans.

Sincerely,

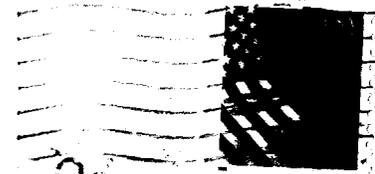
Candace M. Scheidt
Associate Superintendent

No. of Copies rec'd 0
List ABCDE

DIOCESE OF FORT WAYNE - SOUTH BEND



CATHOLIC SCHOOLS OFFICE
POST OFFICE BOX 390
FORT WAYNE, INDIANA 46801

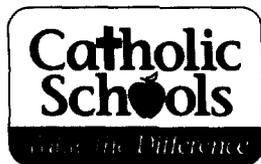


COMMUNICATIONS ROOM
MAR 6 1997
RECEIVED

THE HONORABLE REED HUNDT, CHAIRMAN
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
1919 M ST. NW, ROOM 814
WASHINGTON, DC 20054

20354-0001





DIOCESE OF FORT WAYNE - SOUTH BEND

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS OFFICE

P.O. BOX 390 • FORT WAYNE, INDIANA 46801 • (219) 422-4611

FAX: (219) 420-6306 • CONNECT ID: FWACSO

March 3, 1997

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M St. NW, Room 814
Washington, D.C. 20054

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

CC: Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I am writing in support of meaningful discounts on telecommunications services for schools and libraries so that every school child and life-long learner can have access to the world of information technology. The Telecommunications Act – through its Universal Service Fund provisions – mandates the development of special discount rates for all schools and libraries so they can secure services at affordable prices.

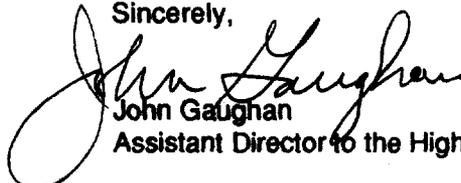
Last November, the Federal-State joint Board on Universal Service sent to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) a set of recommendations for implementing the Universal Service Fund provisions related to schools and libraries. These recommendations would give our learning institutions significant discounts on all services that are commercially available, with deeper discounts for those schools and libraries least able to pay and more expensive to service. All schools would get discounts on connections to classrooms and Internet connectivity, both of which are essential to providing the most advanced learning opportunities to the greatest number of students.

I represent the Catholic schools of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend with forty elementary schools and four high schools serving 14,000 students in northeastern Indiana. Without discounts on internal wiring and Internet, access services will not be affordable for many of our Catholic schools, especially the rural schools. In addition, Catholic schools are excluded from most local/state funded initiatives for purchase of technology hardware and, for this reason, are at a significant disadvantage. National education surveys indicate that Catholic school classroom access to computers and connectivity is at least 50% behind that of its public school counterparts.

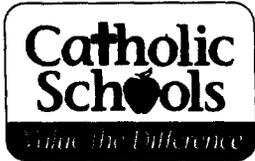
As you are well aware, integrating technology into the curriculum requires advanced telecommunications service and access for all classrooms. Each of our forty-four schools is currently developing a technology plan as a result of our recently published diocesan technology plan.

I urge your support for the Joint Board's recommendations. Taken as a whole, they will provide affordable discounts for a full range of services, and give schools and libraries flexibility in choosing the services needed to meet each community's diverse needs. Most importantly, these provisions, if adopted by the FCC, will make advanced technology for learning available to all Americans.

Sincerely,


John Gaughan
Assistant Director to the High Schools

No. of Copies rec'd 0
List ABCDE



DIOCESE OF FORT WAYNE - SOUTH BEND

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS OFFICE

P.O. BOX 390 • FORT WAYNE, INDIANA 46801 • (219) 422-4611

FAX: (219) 420-6306 • CONNECT ID: FWACSO

March 3, 1997

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M St. NW, Room 814
Washington, D.C. 20054

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

CC: Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I am writing in support of meaningful discounts on telecommunications services for schools and libraries so that every school child and life-long learner can have access to the world of information technology. The Telecommunications Act – through its Universal Service Fund provisions — mandates the development of special discount rates for all schools and libraries so they can secure services at affordable prices.

Last November, the Federal-State joint Board on Universal Service sent to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) a set of recommendations for implementing the Universal Service Fund provisions related to schools and libraries. These recommendations would give our learning institutions significant discounts on all services that are commercially available, with deeper discounts for those schools and libraries least able to pay and more expensive to service. All schools would get discounts on connections to classrooms and Internet connectivity, both of which are essential to providing the most advanced learning opportunities to the greatest number of students.

I represent the Catholic schools of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend with forty elementary schools and four high schools serving 14,000 students in northeastern Indiana. Without discounts on internal wiring and Internet, access services will not be affordable for many of our Catholic schools, especially the rural schools. In addition, Catholic schools are excluded from most local/state funded initiatives for purchase of technology hardware and, for this reason, are at a significant disadvantage. National education surveys indicate that Catholic school classroom access to computers and connectivity is at least 50% behind that of its public school counterparts.

As you are well aware, integrating technology into the curriculum requires advanced telecommunications service and access for all classrooms. Each of our forty-four schools is currently developing a technology plan as a result of our recently published diocesan technology plan.

I urge your support for the Joint Board's recommendations. Taken as a whole, they will provide affordable discounts for a full range of services, and give schools and libraries flexibility in choosing the services needed to meet each community's diverse needs. Most importantly, these provisions, if adopted by the FCC, will make advanced technology for learning available to all Americans.

Sincerely,


(Dr.) Jeanette V. Kam
Superintendent of Schools

No. of Copies rec'd _____
List ABCDE _____

0