

CC: 96-45

DOCKET FILE

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March 4, 1997

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

CC: Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I write 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 that they can secure services at affordable prices.

There is not doubt that advanced telecommunications services are important to improving learning, sparking the imagination and leveling the playing field for all of our 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 they would need 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.

At St. John the Baptist Parochial School, in Silver Spring, Maryland, it is our understanding that the wiring cost could be additionally expensive because of asbestos removal requirements.

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.

We 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,



Elizabeth Rinaldi  
2049 Mayflower Drive  
Silver Spring, MD 20905

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COUNCIL ROOM

The Honorable Reed Hundt  
MAR 6 1997

Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, N.W., Room 814  
Washington, DC 20054



MR. & MRS. ANTONIO RINALDI  
2049 Mayflower Drive  
Silver Spring, MD 20905



cc: 96-45

EX 757-101 LATE FILED

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March 4, 1997

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Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M St. NW, Room 814  
Washington, DC 20054

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Sincerely,

*Mary-Kathryn Chaves*

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*P.S. My daughter, Lauren, is bright and eager to learn. Please pledge your support for this endeavor. Thank you for your consideration!*

CC-96-45

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

Mary Frances Vassiliou  
500 Sherbrook Drive  
Silver Spring, Maryland 20904

March 4, 1997

DOCKET FILED

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

CC: Docket No. 96-45

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Mary Frances Vassiliou

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March 4, 1997

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1919 M St. NW, Room 814  
Washington, DC 20054

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Sincerely,

*Lynn E. Sullivan*

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EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

March 4, 1997

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

CC: Docket No. 96-45

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Sincerely,

Way Julia Bailey  
9203 Custer Tern  
Adelphi mo 20783

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Feb. 17, 1997

FCC  
1919 M St. N.W.,  
Washington, D.C. 20036

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

Dear Sir:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the committee for including discounts for schools and libraries in the 1996 Telecommunications Act. Since we have been able to get our students access to the internet our students have much greater opportunity to do the same kinds of research and complete the same kinds of assignments that have been readily available to students living near metropolitan areas for many years. Access to affordable telecommunications services has leveled the playing field for our rural students. I support the Joint Board recommendations for providing discounted telecommunications services to schools and libraries.

The 1996 Telecommunications Act included important language which directed the Federal Communications Commission ( FCC) to assure "affordable access" to telecommunications services for schools and libraries. Last fall, a Joint Federal-State Universal Service Board ( Joint Board) recommended to the FCC that discounts of 20-90% be provided on all telecommunications services including Internet access and inside wiring. The Joint Board also recommended that a universal service fund of 2.25 billion dollars be established from telecommunications revenues to fund the discounts.

It is my understanding you are now considering whether to adopt the Joint Board proposal or come up with another way to provide discounted telecommunications services to schools and libraries. That decision must be reached by early May. Some segments of the telecommunications industry are putting enormous pressure on the FCC and the White House to cut back on the recommendations, At particular risk are the size of the universal fund, the discounts for Internet access and support for inside wiring. Sen. John McCain ( R. Ariz.) who chairs the Senate Commerce Committee has announced plans to hold hearings on the Joint Board proposal in early March. By all accounts, that hearing is intended to build the case against the Joint Board recommendations and to pressure the you into adopting a less ambitious and comprehensive discount plan. I would urge you to maintain the Joint Board recommendations.

Sincerely,



Rich Schlesselman, Sup't  
Anselmo-Merna Schools  
Merna, NE 68856  
308-643-2224  
rschless@genie.esu10.k12.ne.us

c.c. Nebraska Delegation

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BOARD OF  
EDUCATION

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William A. Tipper

January 15, 1997

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, N.W., Room 814  
Washington, D.C. 20054

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt:

We, the members of the Flint Board of Education, thank you for your leadership and the leadership of the Joint Board for their strong decision to ensure that all schools will have affordable access to the information Superhighway. We urge the FCC to adopt fully the recommendations of the Joint Board.

The discount range of 20 to 90 percent will ensure that all schools - especially financially-challenged urban districts like ours - have truly affordable access. The plan is also very flexible and will empower schools to select the services that work best for their educational mission. The inclusion of discounts on internal connections and Internet access is equally vital and stands to bring services directly to the classroom where students learn.

Our district is currently preparing to connect with other districts in our intermediate school district by fiber optic cable, which will allow our schools to communicate data, voice and visual information. Not only may our ISD be able to benefit from the discounts on the installation of the internal fiber optics connections, but our mobile and permanent satellite units (which are limited to standard phone line links) would also benefit from the discount in line charge service.

As you move ahead in your deliberation on this important issue, we urge you to seize this opportunity to bring 21st century learning to our schoolchildren.

Sincerely,

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*Norman R. Bryant*  
*Bobbie Ann Wells*  
*Joan Evans*  
*Pamela Y. Loving*  
*Rachel M. Haviland*

*William A. Tipper*  
*Lolanda R. Johnson*  
*Randall Talifarro*

Catch Our Spirit —  
Grow With Us

923 E. Kearsley Street  
Flint, MI 48503-1900  
(313) 760-1248  
Fax (313) 760-6790

10:96-45



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EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

228 W. Market Street, Newark, N.J. 07103

(201) 622-1613

March 3, 1997

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

Dear Mr. Hundt:

Having worked with under represented students in an inner city school for more than twenty-five years, I understand the importance of the American Reads Challenge. Illiteracy and the seeming disregard for equal education constitute critical threats to our nation's future. The America Reads Challenge proposes a viable solution to this fundamental problem and recognizes the impact of technology on efforts to level the playing field.

We write to endorse the recommendation by the Joint Board of Federal and State representation to the Federal Communications Commission to provide deep discounts - averaging 60 to 90 per cent for schools with large numbers of low-income students - in the costs of connecting and using the Information Superhighway. These opportunities must not be limited, as they are now, to affluent communities. Schools like ours struggle to meet current expenses; the \$2,450 annual tuition/fee charge covers only about 70% of actual per capita costs at SVA. Given this reality, the cost of computers can be prohibitive let alone networking, Internet, web and telecommunications services. The recommended discount represents the best hope for equipping the schools with the technologies which have become an educational necessity.

In your consideration of "the school and library discount section" of the 1996 Telecommunications Act, please remember schools like Saint Vincent Academy and act in the interest of justice, our national integrity and international strenght and security.

We've enclosed SVA's demographic profile so that you might have an understanding of the typical catholic school of the inner city.

Sincerely yours,

Sister June Favata  
Administrative Director

SJF:gdr  
Enclosure

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**SAINT VINCENT ACADEMY**

228 West Market Street  
Newark, New Jersey 07103  
201-622-1613

Sister June Favata, Administrative Director  
Sister Margaret Killough, Financial Director  
Mary F. Nolan, Student Services Director

**Mission**

Saint Vincent Academy is dedicated to the empowerment of underrepresented high-school-age women through the delivery of a wholistic education grounded in Gospel values, characterized by rigorous academics and consistently high expectations and supported by individual nurturing and a strong sense of community. The Academy also fulfills its call to make peace and justice by instilling in students a sense of responsibility for the betterment of society.

**Demographic Profile**

Enrollment: 315

Ethnic Background: 53% African-American  
16% Hispanic  
14% Portuguese  
8% Haitian  
5% Other Islander  
4% Other

Religious Background: 43% Catholic  
30% Baptist  
19% Other Christian  
8% Non-Christian/None

Tuition (tuition & fees '96-'97): \$2,400.00

Per Pupil Costs: \$4,000.00

College: On the average (over the past four years) approximately 95% of our graduates further their education.

Daily Attendance Rate of 98%

60% participate in the Federal School Lunch Program

38% come from Single Parent Homes

35% come from Public School

City of Residence: 62% Newark  
18% East Orange/Orange  
14% Hillside/Irvington  
5% Other

PARTE OR LATE FILED

March 3, 1997

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

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 am a parent in 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. 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. My child's school is no exception.

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

Currently, the FCC is considering these recommendations and will soon decide on its final rule on universal service for schools and libraries. Please convey your support of these recommendations to the FCC. Thank you for your attention to this matter of considerable importance to all children, schools, classrooms, and libraries.

Sincerely,



Mary Lee Speybroeck

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March 4, 1997

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

John & Patricia Young  
1408 Milestone Drive  
Silver Spring, MD 20904

CC: Docket No. 96-45

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Sincerely,

*John T. Young*  
*Patricia H. Young*

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# DIOCESE OF FORT WAYNE - SOUTH BEND

## CATHOLIC SCHOOLS OFFICE

1328 WEST DRAGON TRAIL • MISHAWAKA, INDIANA 46544 • (219) 255-1387

FAX: (219) 256-2709 • CONNECT ID: SBDCSO

EX PARTE OR LATER FILED

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1919 M St. NW, Room 814  
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Last November, the Federal-State joint Board of 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.

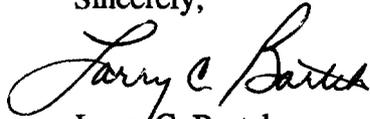
As you are well aware, integrating technology into the curriculum requires advanced telecommunications service and access for all classrooms. Each of our forty-four schools is currently developing a technology plan as a result of our recently published diocesan technology plan.

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It is especially critical that non-public schools receive consideration for funding and discounts. Our nation can no longer afford Catholic school students being treated as "Second Class Citizens." 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 will make advanced technology for learning available to all Americans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Larry C. Bartek". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the left of the typed name.

Larry C. Bartek  
Associate Superintendent of Schools  
Catholic Schools Office, Mishawaka