

CALIFORNIA STATE LIBRARY

LIBRARY—COURTS BUILDING • P.O. BOX 942837 • SACRAMENTO, CA 94237-0001



TELEPHONE: (916) 654-0174

CC 96-45

April 11, 1997

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APR 22 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Consumer Affairs

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

Dear Chairman Hundt:

California's libraries are a key access point for many citizens who need information through the electronic superhighway, and I applaud the Telecommunications Act of 1996 which will enable libraries to provide and expand this public service with discounted rates.

My staff and I have reviewed the recommendations of the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service. We were pleased with the forward-thinking evidenced in the report, particularly with regard to the range of telecommunications services covered and the initial budget. Probably the budget will need to increase as Americans increasingly obtain their information electronically through public service points, but such an increase is precisely what is necessary to assure their access to government information and to keep our economy viable.

I do have several suggestions for changes, however.

First, libraries should be permitted to recover costs for patron usage — downloading a document, for example — without it being considered a "resale" as prohibited in the Joint Board's report.

I am concerned that discounts based on the National School Lunch Program will prove problematic and inequitable for libraries. It's a fair and fine source of data for schools, but public library jurisdictions do not coincide with school districts — and then there is no applicability whatsoever to a hospital library, a law library, or a university library that serve the public yet do not focus on children. I'd recommend, instead, that U.S. Census data be used across the board for libraries.

Finally, the language of the Act permits for-profit libraries to obtain discounts if they are eligible for federal funds under the State-based plan for the Library Services and Technology Act (formerly Title III of the Library Services and Construction Act). In California, all libraries that share resources with other libraries are eligible for those funds: if a private university like Stanford share its information or loans its resources to people beyond its normal clientele of faculty and students, we want it able to participate in resource-sharing as fully as possible ... which requires telecommunications. A bill has just been

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The Honorable Reed E. Hundt

-2-

April 11, 1997

introduced in the State Legislature to support library resource-sharing, and both publicly-funded and privately-funded libraries are included because the ultimate benefit is to the public rather than to the institution.

Thank you for your consideration. Please contact me at (916) 654-0174 if further information would be useful.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin Starr". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr. Kevin Starr
State Librarian of California

cc: William F. Clayton
Mark Madel

KOS:BW:ag
BW2\96-97\fcc-ltr.1

April 15, 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 (State Public Utility Commissioner/Members of Congress):

I am writing in strong support of the meaningful discounts for schools and libraries as envisioned by the Federal-State Joint Board in their Recommended Rules published last November. In particular, I support the recommendations made by EdLINC, a Washington-based coalition of educational and library organizations.

The Recommended Rules ensure that all children, whether in public or non-public schools, have access to on-line resources that are critical to live, learn and work in our modern society.

Here at St. Paul/Our Lady of Vilna, a Catholic school in inner-city Chicago, our classrooms are outfitted with several Apple IIe computers, relics to be sure. In an age where privileged children have e-mail accounts and are familiar with spread sheets and word processing programs, we in inner city Catholic schools fiddle with 5" floppies and wheezing disc drives. Unforgiving budget cuts no doubt ensure that our collective feet will remain firmly planted in the computer ice age.

Congress passed the Telecommunications Act of 1996 with the clear intent of insuring that schools and libraries would be able to access the latest technology. By allowing telecommunication and non-telecommunication carriers to compete for the discounts, the Joint Board has also recognized the need to diverse technologies to serve the diverse urban and rural areas of the State.

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,

Stephan Graham

Mr. Stephan Graham
8th-grade teacher
St Paul/Our Lady of Vilna

Sister M. Dolorine

Sister Dolorine Lopez
Principal
St. Paul/Our Lady of Vilna

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Federal Communications Commission

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WOODLAKE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

1620 LIVINGSTON STREET • MANDEVILLE, LA 70448

MARIAN C. ARROWSMITH, PRINCIPAL
JEAN KRIEGER, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL



April 8, 1997

Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 844
Washington, DC 20554

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED
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APR 22 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Washington, DC

Re: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Hundt:

I am a teacher from Woodlake Elementary School in St. Tammany Parish, Mandeville, Louisiana and I would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all schools and libraries will have affordable access to the information Superhighway.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even the poorest schools and poorest school districts will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools, and importantly, the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital. This plan is essential for preparing the workforce of tomorrow.

Our students need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

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

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APR 22 1997

RE: cc Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt,

I am an Educational Diagnostician from Conroe Independent School District, and I would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all schools will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even the poorest schools will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools, and importantly, the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital. This plan is essential for preparing the workforce of tomorrow.

Our students need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Sincerely,


Dabney Ajeme, DIS
Educational Diagnostician

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College For Living

8175 Big Bend Boulevard, Suite 140 • St. Louis, Missouri 63119 • (314) 963-0545 • FAX (314) 963-9855 • e-mail cfl@inlink.com

April 17, 1997

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Nancy Pecha
Executive Director

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

Dear Chairman Hundt:

Advocates for people with disabilities have made access to technology a main policy goal for the 1990s. Our focus has been on universal design and public policies that will allow people with disabilities to have ready access to the same technologies as others. The Advances in telecommunications access that will be achieved as a result of Section 255 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 will depend on all consumers having affordable access to a well-maintained, robust, high-capacity local network.

We are concerned that the Universal Service and Access Reform proceedings underway at the FCC could undermine our efforts to make sure that people with disabilities have full access to modern telecommunications services. The FCC's revision of these basic rules will have a major impact on the integrity and capacity of the public network. The public network is our link to all telephone and other communications services.

As we only to keenly aware, the progress made on disability access in the new law is only a first step. Real access to telecommunications can only be achieved if network-based services are made accessible, as required by Section 255 of the Act. Major technology companies recently announced universal design policies---a very exciting development for disability and technology

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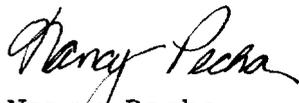
Federal Communications Commission

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advocates. If properly implemented, these policies will make basic telephone service and new features such as Caller ID, Internet Services, and Video Services more accessible. However, the regulations governing Section 255 have yet to be written. Even with meaningful regulations, the accessibility of these services depend on the deployment of an advanced, high capacity local network available to all telephone customers in order for the benefits of Section 255 to be fully realized.

Issues of affordability and accessibility bring the rural American and inner city dwellers, people of color, children and families, senior citizens and people with disabilities. We strongly object to any public policies that will result in higher rates or decreasing investment in the local telephone network. It is unwise and counter-productive to ignore the important relationship between the goals of access to telecommunications for persons with disabilities and the broader policy goals of affordability and the integrity of the local network.

Sincerely,



Nancy Pecha
Executive Director

Media Services / Technology / Foreign Language



The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 844
Washington, DC 20554

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APR 22 1997

Learning
for
Life

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Hundt:

I am a Technology Coordinator from Dearborn Public Schools and I would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all schools and libraries will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even the poorest schools will have the opportunities.

The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools, and importantly, the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital. This plan is essential for preparing the workforce of tomorrow.

Our intent is to provide all student use computers in classrooms, microcomputer labs and media centers with the ability to access the Internet. Presently, we are planning to install expensive infrastructure which will provide local area networking (LAN) capabilities for each of our buildings. Allowing for inexpensive Internet services will relieve our school district of the burden of an unaffordable expense if we were to consider service to all of our student computers.

In addition, our district would like to take advantage of distance learning applications which would provide professional development activities for our teachers and additional higher level course offerings for our students which presently cost prohibitive.

Our students need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge the FCC to fully support of the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Dennis P. Briar'.

Dennis Briar
Coordinator Media/Technology/Foreign Language

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18700 Audette
Dearborn, MI 48124-4295
Voice (313) 730-3038
Fax (313) 730-3041

4-22-97 10:00 AM

Jane A. Sharka

0N655 Winfield Scott Drive Winfield, IL 60190 630-668-6554 (hm)/630-420-6426 (wk)

Honorable Reed Hundt - Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW - Room 844
Washington, DC 20554

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APR 22 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Dear Chairman Hundt:

RE: CC Docket 96-45 - Universal Service to Libraries and Schools

I am writing to you to ask for your strong support of meaningful discounts for libraries and schools as originally envisioned by the Joint Federal-State Board in their Recommended Rules published last November.

Since I am a librarian in a school, this issue of discounts affects me doubly. The Recommended Rules allow libraries and schools significant discounts for telecommunications and critical, *non-telecommunications services* necessary to assure that all of our public libraries and schools are connected to the Internet and other on-line resources which are our life-blood in an increasingly information-driven and information-hungry world. (We certainly can't afford the *buy* the information with our budgets!)

Congress passed the Telecommunications Act of 1996 with the intent of insuring libraries and schools would be able to access the latest technology. By allowing significant discounts on telecommunication services, local wiring and Internet access, the Joint Board has accurately recognized the needs of schools and libraries which cannot afford even the basic wiring for Internet connectivity. By allowing telecommunications companies and non-telco carriers to compete for the discounts, the Joint Board has also recognized the need for diverse technologies to serve the diverse urban and rural populations of Illinois.

I would greatly appreciate your attention to this matter. It is very important for our libraries and schools -- and -- ultimately all of us, as a better educated community benefits everyone. Please do not hesitate to call me if you have any questions regarding my perspective on this issue -- or if you need any information about it.

Sincerely,

Jane A. Sharka
Jane A. Sharka

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WOODLAKE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

1620 LIVINGSTON STREET • MANDEVILLE, LA 70448

MARIAN C. ARROWSMITH, PRINCIPAL
JEAN KRIEGER, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL



April 8, 1997

Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 844
Washington, DC 20554

Re: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Hundt:

I am a teacher from Woodlake Elementary School in St. Tammany Parish, Mandeville, Louisiana and I would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all schools and libraries will have affordable access to the information Superhighway.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even the poorest schools and poorest school districts will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools, and importantly, the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital. This plan is essential for preparing the workforce of tomorrow.

Our students need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Donnie E. Hall

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Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary



CENTRAL UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

Joan F. Gusinow, Ph.D.
Superintendent
P.O. Box 1339
NAS LEMOORE, CALIFORNIA 93245-1339

15783 Eighteenth Avenue
LEMOORE, CALIFORNIA 93245
Telephone (209) 924-3405
Fax (209) 924-1153

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April 11, 1997

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The Honorable Reed Hundt
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 844
Washington, D.C. 20554

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RE: CC Docket No.96-45

Dear Commissioner Hundt:

I am a superintendent from Central Union School District, and I would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all school districts and education consortia will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board decision will guarantee that all school districts will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools, and importantly, the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital. This plan is essential for preparing the workforce of tomorrow. The Central Union School District would use the discounts to offset the costs of our T1 lines.

Our students need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge the FCC to fully support of the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Joan F. Gusinow Ph.D.
Superintendent

JFG:caa

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Victoria Stevenson Technology Coordinator

Carter County Schools
305 Academy Street
Elizabethton, TN 37643

Voice: 423-547-4063
Fax: 423-547-4040
e-mail: stevensonv@ten-nash.ten.k12.tn.us

April 17, 1997

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The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman

Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 844
Washington, DC 20554

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Federal Communications Commission

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Hundt:

I am a Technology Coordinator from Carter County Schools in Tennessee and I would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all schools and libraries will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even the poorest schools will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools, and importantly, the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital. This plan is essential for preparing the workforce of tomorrow.

Our students need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge the FCC to fully support of the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Victoria Stevenson

Victoria Stevenson
Technology Coordinator

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WOODLAKE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

1620 LIVINGSTON STREET • MANDEVILLE, LA 70448

MARIAN C. ARROWSMITH, PRINCIPAL
JEAN KRIEGER, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL



April 8, 1997

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 844
Washington, DC 20554

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APR 22 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Re: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Hundt:

I am a teacher from Woodlake Elementary School in St. Tammany Parish, Mandeville, Louisiana and I would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all schools and libraries will have affordable access to the information Superhighway.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even the poorest schools and poorest school districts will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools, and importantly, the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital. This plan is essential for preparing the workforce of tomorrow.

Our students need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

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2525 Third Avenue South
Escanaba, Michigan 49829-1298
Phone: (906) 786-9300
FAX: (906) 786-9318

April 15, 1997

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 844
Washington, DC 20554

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APR 22 1997

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt:

Crippled by limited staff, geographic isolation, declining enrollment, and tight budgets, school districts in the southern, central Upper Peninsula of Michigan found it impossible to offer courses that are considered standard for their cosmopolitan counterparts. To address this inequity the Delta-Schoolcraft Intermediate School District formed a "Technology and Education Strategic Task Force." This group, composed of over fifty leaders from business, education, medical and public agencies, developed a strategic plan for our area. Strong, local commitment for building a distance learning network was supported financially through grant funds from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Commerce Department. This network enhanced the K-12 curriculum and improved the skills of students and workers. It provides residents with high quality educational experiences that promote economic growth and provides our communities with a 21st century competitive edge.

Yet, an inequity still exists among our school districts. There is great disparity regarding available technology among the end user sites. Many of the 40 schools located in Delta and Schoolcraft county do not have the internal connections necessary to access our wide area distance learning network. Discounts provided by the Universal Service Fund would help address this inequity issue as well as assist us with ongoing telecommunications charges.

In the Upper Peninsula of Michigan we are committed to providing our students with the technology necessary to be competitive in the global marketplace. Universal Service Funds will assist us in financing the technical aspects of the system, without draining limited school funds. School dollars can then be spent developing and implementing a technology-rich curriculum.

I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Thank-you.

Sincerely,

Diane Maltby
Technology Coordinator

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Paramount Unified School District

15110 California Avenue, Paramount, California 90723-4378
(562) 602-6000 Fax (562) 634-6029

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EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

April 17, 1997



The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 844
Washington DC 20554

Re: CC Docket No.96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I am Director of Student Services from Paramount Unified School District in the City of Paramount, California, and I would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all school districts and education consortia will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board's decision will guarantee that all school districts have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools, and importantly, the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital. This plan is essential for preparing the workforce of tomorrow.

Our District's Technology Use Plan provides the opportunities for students, teachers, and parents to access to the Information Superhighway for distance learning, teaching strategies, college planning, and guidance information.

Our students need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge the FCC to fully support of the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at (562) 602-6028.

Sincerely,

E.J. Harcharik, Director
Student Services

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EH:ew

Good things are happening in Paramount schools.

RICHLAND - LERDO SCHOOL DISTRICT

District Superintendent
Daniel L. Knapp, Ph.D.

Board Members
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Lawrence E. Handel
Cain Maldonado
Steven W. Skalisky
Noel R. Wilson

331 SHAFTER AVENUE
SHAFTER, CALIFORNIA 93263
(805) 746-7700
FAX: (805) 746-7714
April 17, 1997

Richland Primary
(805) 746-7770
Richland Intermediate
(805) 746-7750
Richland Junior High
(805) 746-7730

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

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

RE: CC DOCKET NO. 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt:

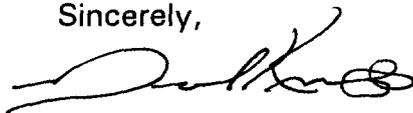
I am writing to you regarding the federal "E-Rate" Telecommunications Discount Program. I am the superintendent of the Richland-Lerdo School District, and I would like to express my strong support for this program and the proposed regulations regarding its implementation.

The Telecommunications Act of 1996 and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even the poorest schools will have access to the Internet and the ability to provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of schools across the country. More importantly, the plan will bring telecommunications services directly to the classrooms where they can have the greatest impact on students. It is important to remember that each element of this plan is vital to the overall success of the discount program. Therefore, discounts for internal classroom connections should not be eliminated, nor should the size of the Universal Service Fund be reduced. As I am sure you are aware, this program is essential for preparing our students to enter the workforce of tomorrow.

The E-Rate Telecommunications Discount Program is desperately overdue and our students need these discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge you to fully support the recommendations of the Joint Board and approve the proposed final regulations regarding the discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,



Daniel L. Knapp, Ph.D.
District Superintendent

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Office of Secretary

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Independent School District No. 299

511 West Main Street
Caledonia, Minnesota 55921-1194
(507) 724-3316
FAX: (507) 724-3319

April 16, 1997

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street Northwest
Room 844
Washington, DC 20554

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APR 22 1997
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt:

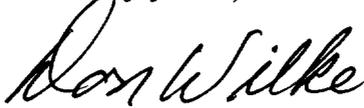
I am Superintendent of the Caledonia School District, Caledonia, Minnesota and I would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all school districts and education consortia will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board decision will guarantee that all school districts will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools, and importantly, the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital. This plan is essential for preparing the workforce of tomorrow.

Caledonia School District has made a major financial commitment to wire our two school buildings but would greatly benefit by receiving assistance with discounts for services. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools.

Thank you.

Sincerely yours,


Don Wilke, Superintendent

DW/dal

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MILAN AREA SCHOOLS MEET THE CHALLENGE

COMMUNICATIONS

DENNIS M. McCOMB
Superintendent of Schools

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

April 14, 1997

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communication Commissioner
1919 M Street, N.W., Room 844
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: CC Docket No 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt:

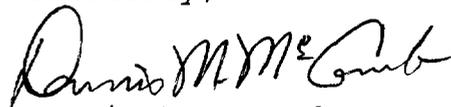
On behalf of the Milan Area Schools board, administration, staff, students and community I would like to thank you for working diligently to ensure that school districts will have access to the Information Superhighway at an affordable rate.

Our district is in the final stages of a construction project where a significant investment was made to wire our buildings for technology and to purchase a large number of computers. We want to provide our students with every educational opportunity possible through the use of technology and the Information Superhighway. Due to this investment we now have the hardware we need to accomplish our goal. But, we need to have a way to reach beyond our school walls to access the world. With a very tight operational budget we also need to have access at a reasonable cost.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board decision will guarantee that all school districts will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance learning opportunities. This plan is an essential component for the preparation of our youth for the jobs of tomorrow.

The need for deep discounts for telecommunication services is critical. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan. Our students will be very appreciative.

Sincerely,



Dennis M. McComb
Superintendent

DMM:gd

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Federal Communication Commission
Office of Secretary

NEW CASTLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
420 Fern Street
New Castle, PA 16101-2640

Telephone: (412) 656-4771
Fax (412) 656-4786

Marie L. Pisano
Board Secretary-Business Manager

Joseph A. Martin, Jr.
Superintendent of Schools

April 17, 1997

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

The Honorable Rachelle B. Chong
Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 844
Washington, DC 20554

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APR 22 1997
Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

RE: CC Docket No 96-45

Dear Commissioner Chong: :

I am a Board Member from the New Castle Area School District in Pennsylvania and I would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all schools and libraries will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even the poorest schools will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools, and importantly, the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital. This plan is essential for preparing the workforce of tomorrow.

With this discount, we would be able to purchase new adoptions of textbooks which have repeatedly been cut from our local budget. Western Pennsylvania has been extremely hard hit and our school has lost \$13,000,000 of tax base in the last ten years and we rank ninth in the Commonwealth for local tax effort.

Our students need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Mr. Michael Michalajko
Board Member

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TheSchool

The Art Institute of Chicago

The Honorable Reed Hundt
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW
Room 844
Washington, DC 20554

April 15, 1997

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

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APR 22 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

To The Honorable Reed Hundt:

Re: CC Docket 96-45 -- Universal Service to Libraries and Schools. I am writing in support of the discounts for libraries and schools as envisioned by the Federal-State Joint Board in their Recommended Rules published last November.

If adopted, the Recommended Rules will allow libraries and schools significant discounts for the telecommunications and critical, non-telecommunications services necessary to assure that all of our libraries and schools are connected to the Internet and other on-line resources that are needed to live, learn, work and create in an increasingly information-driven world.

Congress passed the Telecommunications Act of 1996 with the clear intent of ensuring that libraries and schools would be able to access the latest technology. By allowing significant discounts on telecommunications and related services, the Joint Board has accurately recognized the needs of schools and libraries that must constantly upgrade their facilities and services in order to remain connected and competitive. A better educated populace benefits all of society.

I also wish to express the opinion that the language of the final rules regarding universal service should explicitly state that:

- the word "schools" includes ALL educational institutions (not just public schools) and all levels (college/university as well as K-12);
- ALL libraries (not just public libraries) are considered educational institutions.

By way of our many consortial agreements, interlibrary loan services, special collections access and guest privileges, "private" college libraries such as the one in which I work serve patron groups far wider than their own school populations. We also play an important role in providing information services to our local citizens and to the national scholarly community. Our ability to both give and receive information services depends on timely, reliable Internet access. Please convey these recommendations to the members of the Federal Communications Commission and the Illinois Commerce Commission on my behalf.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Claire Eike

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CHARLESTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 1

CHARLESTON, ILLINOIS

61920

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL
Charleston High School
Route 16 & 130

Phone (217) 345-2196

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April 17, 1997

Honorable Reed Hundt - Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW - Room 844
Washington, DC 20554

APR 22 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Division of Enforcement

Dear Mr. Hundt:

RE: CC Docket 96-45 - Universal Service to Libraries and Schools

As a high school media specialist in a small town in east central Illinois, I am writing in strong support of the meaningful discounts for libraries and schools as envisioned by the Federal-State Joint Board in their Recommended Rules published last November.

These Rules allow libraries and schools significant discounts for the telecommunications and critical, non-telecommunications services necessary to assure that ALL of our public libraries and schools are connected to the Internet and other on-line resources that are critical to live, learn and work in an increasingly information-driven world.

I understand that Congress passed the Telecommunications Act of 1996 with the clear intent of insuring that libraries and schools would be able to access the latest technology. By allowing significant discounts on telecommunications services, local wiring and Internet access, the Joint Board has accurately recognized the needs of poorer schools and libraries that cannot afford the internal wiring necessary to connect with the Internet. By allowing telecommunications companies and non-telco carriers to compete for the discounts, the Joint Board has also recognized the need for diverse technologies to serve the diverse urban and rural areas of the State.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter for our students...our future. We all agree that a better educated community benefits everyone.

Sincerely,



Carol A. Bomball
Charleston High School
Media Specialist

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Querrey & Harrow

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APR 22 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Division of Regulatory Affairs

Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW - Room 844
Washington DC 20554

Attention: Honorable Reed Hundt - Chairman

RE: CC Docket 96-45 - Universal Service to Libraries and Schools

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am writing in strong support of the meaningful discounts for libraries and schools as envisioned by the Federal-State Joint Board in their Recommended Rules published last November.

The Recommended Rules allow libraries and schools significant discounts for the telecommunications and critical, non-telecommunications services necessary to assure that all of our public libraries and schools are connected to the Internet and other on-line resources that are critical to live, learn and work in an increasingly information-driven world. We would hope that this would encompass business libraries as well, inclusive, but not limited to, hospital and law libraries. These libraries are used by students as well as professionals well-established in their fields. Therefore, they should be given the same consideration as school libraries in their efforts to support the future of their professions.

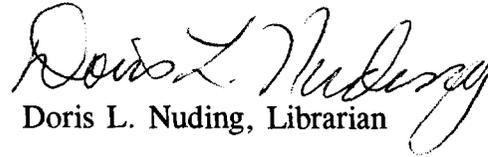
Congress passed the Telecommunications Act of 1996 with the clear intent of insuring that libraries and schools would be able to access the latest technology. By allowing significant discounts on telecommunications services, local wiring and Internet access, the Joint Board has accurately recognized the needs of poorer schools and libraries that cannot afford the internal wiring necessary to connect with the Internet. By allowing telecommunications companies and non-telco carriers to compete for the discounts, the Joint Board has also recognized the need for diverse technologies to serve the diverse urban and rural areas of the State.

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Thank you for your attention to this important matter for our libraries and schools -- and ultimately for us all, as a better educated community benefits everyone. Please do not hesitate to call if we can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Doris L. Nuding".

Doris L. Nuding, Librarian

/ms



Oakland Schools

2100 Pontiac Lake Road, Waterford, Michigan 48328-2735 • Phone (810) 858-2121 • Fax (810) 858-1881

April 14, 1997

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW, Room 844
Washington, DC 20554

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APR 22 1997

Federal Communications Commission

Re: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I am the superintendent of Oakland Schools, a regional education service agency which serves 28 public school districts and 186,759 students in Oakland County, Michigan. One of the major issues among school superintendents, school boards and other educators in Oakland County and throughout Michigan is that of affordable access to our nation's information infrastructure.

In Oakland County we would continue our work as a regional consortium to bring information access to approximately 10,000 classrooms. To accomplish our goal, we need reduced rates for dialtone and high speed data lines but more importantly, we need affordable means of on-premise equipment and networking for all of our school buildings.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board decision will guarantee that all school districts will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools, and importantly, the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital. This plan is essential for preparing the workforce of tomorrow.

Our students need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service to schools

Thank you.

Sincerely,

James Redmond, Ph.D.
Superintendent

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NEW CASTLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
420 Fern Street
New Castle, PA 16101-2640

Telephone: (412) 656-4771
Fax (412) 656-4786

Marie L. Pisano
Board Secretary-Business Manager

Joseph A. Martin, Jr.
Superintendent of Schools

April 17, 1997

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

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APR 22 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman
Commissioner Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 844
Washington, DC 20554

RE: CC Docket No 96 - 45

Dear Commissioner Hundt: :

I am a Board Member from the New Castle Area School District in Pennsylvania and I would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all schools and libraries will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even the poorest schools will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools, and importantly, the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital. This plan is essential for preparing the workforce of tomorrow.

With this discount, we would be able to purchase new adoptions of textbooks which have repeatedly been cut from our local budget. Western Pennsylvania has been extremely hard hit and our school has lost \$13,000,000 of tax base in the last ten years and we rank ninth in the Commonwealth for local tax effort.

Our students need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Mr. Frank Bonfield
Board Member

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