

Learning
Resources
Center

Punxsutawney Area School District

North Findley St. Punxsutawney, PA 15767 (814) 938-5151

April 21, 1997

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

RECEIVED
MAY 1 1997

Re: CC Docket No. 96-45

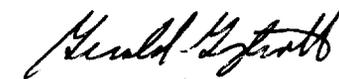
As Director of Learning Resources for our rural school district in central-western Pennsylvania, I would like to thank you for your efforts in ensuring that all schools and libraries will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway. Since our schools are located thirty miles from the nearest academic library of any size (Indiana University of Pennsylvania), it is imperative that our students have a way to obtain the necessary information for research, class projects, and personal growth and development in terms of career objectives and higher education. Thus, we have been doing as much as we can to keep up with technology—a hard task considering the expense and lack of financial resources with which we must deal as a reality of operating a school system.

Although grant funding has made it possible for us to obtain some computers, software, and essential networking hardware, it is imperative that we have an economical way of utilizing the Internet and World Wide Web so our students can gain maximum benefit from having access to technology.

The Telecommunications Act and Federal-State Joint Board Discount Plan will guarantee that our district, which in many ways, is disadvantaged, will have the opportunity to bring services to our classrooms where our students are learning. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital to our young people's future.

Our students need deep discounts for telecommunications services as soon as possible. My colleagues and I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal services for schools and libraries.

Sincerely,



Gerald Gigliotti,
Director, Learning Resources

MOSHANNON VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT
RR 1 BOX 314
HOUTZDALE, PENNSYLVANIA 16851

James J. Lebda, Ed. D.
Superintendent of Schools

Scott E. King
Assistant Superintendent

Cheryl L. Pataky
High School Principal

Thomas C. Snyder
Elementary Principal

April 25, 1997

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

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

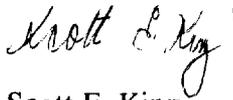
Dear Commissioner Chong:

I am the Assistant Superintendent of the Moshannon Valley School District which is a small and rural district in central Pennsylvania. Working in the fiscal area, I can state that costs have been exceeding revenues which has forced us into the position of raising property taxes the last several years.

New developments in the area of technology are essential for preparing our students for the world of work but because of our budget situation must be carefully weighed against required expenditures. The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board decision will help provide the opportunity for school districts to connect to the Internet and enhance distance learning. Students will benefit in the classroom but the inclusion of internal connections for discounts is vital for a district such as ours that is so concerned about controlling costs.

We would like our students to be able to begin using the Internet in the 1997-98 school year but need the telecommunications discounts to make this economically feasible. Please support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools. Thank you for your time and consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Scott E. King



Elko County School District

Central Administrative Office

TELEPHONE (702) 738-5196

FAX (702) 738-5857

P. O. BOX 1012

Elko, Nevada 89803

April 21, 1997

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

MAY 1 1997

Re: CC Docket Number 96-45

Dear Commissioner Chong:

As Director of Instruction for Elko County School District, I am writing to urge your support for the "E-rate" discount. As a geographically large rural school district located in Northeastern Nevada it has been difficult to bring technology to our schools located in isolated parts of the county. We have several communities that have high levels of minorities and poverty with little in the way of the infrastructure to access technology and I see potential in this proposal to significantly impact our ability to provide connectivity.

In particular the communities in Owyhee, Nevada (Native American Reservation) and Jackpot, Nevada (High Hispanic Population) would be a high priority for Elko County School District to seek out and provide telecommunication infrastructure discounts for Internet and distance learning opportunities under this act.

Your efforts in support of this act can help our most rural and under-served populations gain affordable access to the information superhighway.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "William McLeod".

William McLeod
Director of Instruction

cc: Marcia R. Bandera, Superintendent

Merced County Office of Education

Ronald Tiffie, Superintendent



April 24, 1997

An Affirmative Action/
Equal Opportunity Employer

RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997

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

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Chong:

I am writing to you regarding the federal "E-Rate" Telecommunications Discount Program. I am a locally elected school board member from the Merced County Office of Education, and I would like to express my strong support for this program and the proposed regulations governing 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, and 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, the inclusion of 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 and the other FCC commissioners to fully support the recommendations of the Joint Board and approve the proposed final regulations regarding the discount plan for universal services for schools and libraries.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,


SYBIL CROOKHAM, Chairperson
Merced County Board of Education

SC:eem

SIERRA SANDS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

**SUPERINTENDENT and
HUMAN RESOURCES**

Bruce Auld
(760) 375-3363
(760) 375-4852
FAX 375-3338

INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES

Perry Hayes
(760) 375-3923
FAX 375-1959

BUSINESS SERVICES

Michael H. McGrath
(760) 375-4340
FAX 375-4562

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Howard N. Smith
(760) 375-3923
FAX 375-1959



District Office: 113 Felspar Avenue, Ridgecrest, CA 93555-3589

April 21, 1997

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

MAY 1 1997

Dear Commissioner Chong:

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

I am writing to you in regard to the federal "E-Rate" Telecommunications Discount Program. I am superintendent of Sierra Sands Unified School District, and I would like to express my strong support for this program and the proposed regulations governing 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, and 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, the inclusion of 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 work force 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 and the other FCC commissioners 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,

Bruce Auld
Superintendent

BA:pl



ANAHEIM CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

April 24, 1997

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

1001 South East Street
Anaheim, CA 92805 - 5749
Phone (714) 517 - 8500
FAX (714) 517 - 8538

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner:

I am writing to you in regards to the federal "E-Rate" Telecommunications Discount Program. I am the Superintendent of Anaheim City School District, and I would like to express my strong support for this program and the proposed regulations governing 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, and 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, the inclusion of 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 those discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge you and the other FCC commissioners 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,

Roberta Thompson
Superintendent

RT:dt

a great place to learn!



West Allegheny School District

FINDLAY TOWNSHIP • NORTH FAYETTE TOWNSHIP • OAKDALE BOROUGH

April 23, 1997

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

FILED
MAY 1 1997
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C.

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Chong:

On May 8, 1997, when you vote on the FCC Federal State Joint Boards recommendation to provide significant discounts for all telecommunications services, including connections within each classroom, you will have the opportunity to guarantee that all students have an equal opportunity to benefit from our nations technological advancements. This will prove to be a major step in the efforts to prepare students for their future in which 60% of the jobs will require computer skills.

As a school superintendent, I can assure you that the proposed discounts would provide a major thrust to our efforts to integrate technology into the curriculum. We are committed to providing our students with the computer skills that businesses demand and that our workforce will need to maintain our competitiveness in a global economy.

I encourage you to support the plan to provide discounts to schools for all telecommunications services, including internal connections. This action will open the door of opportunity for every student in our country and help to prepare our workforce of the future.

Sincerely,



Reggie J. Bonfield
Superintendent

RJB:rs

Dr. Reggie J. Bonfield, Superintendent • P.O. Box 55 • Imperial, PA 15126 • (412) 695-3422

An equal opportunity school district



RALPH M. NUZZOLO
Acting Superintendent

PENNSBURY SCHOOL DISTRICT

134 Yardley Avenue • Post Office Box 338
Fallsington, Pennsylvania 19058-0338
Telephone: (215) 428-4100
FAX: (215) 428-4270

April 22, 1997

MAY 1 1997

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

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Chong:

I am the Director of Information Technology for the Pennsbury School District in Fallsington, Bucks County, PA.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that all schools have the opportunity to connect to the Information Superhighway and with distance learning opportunities, thus bringing services directly to the classroom where students learn. This plan is essential for preparing the workforce of tomorrow.

Pennsbury School District is embarking on a major technology program that is currently limited by funding. We are unable to address a number of instructional requirements because of the costs necessary to build the infrastructure. We are planning to use the services of the local cable company to connect our 16 buildings, and we hope to use an Internet Service Provider and telecommunication lines to extend Internet to the classrooms. Currently, only one lab and the library in each school have any type of data cabling. The Telecommunications Act of 1996 provides for deep discounts for schools for telecommunication services, and enacting these discounts could make a significant difference in our project. Please recognize the positive impact such discounts could have on the implementation of our technology program. The actions you take at the FCC can considerably assist us in achieving our goals.

Thank you for your commitment to ensuring that all schools and libraries will have affordable access to the Internet. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Sincerely,

A. Richard Wilson, Interim Director
Information Technology



CASTAIC UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

31616 North Ridge Route • Castaic, California 91384

Phone: (805) 257-0551 • Fax: (805) 257-5737

Nora Emmons • Dirk Gosda • Tom Caesar • Lester M. Freeman • Irene L. Massey
President Clerk Member Member Member

April 24, 1997

The Honorable Rachelle B. Chong, Commissioner (California)
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW. Room 844
Washington, Dc 20554

MAY 1 1997

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Chong,

As the Superintendent for the Castaic Union School District, and on behalf of the Board of Trustees, students, teachers and community of Castaic, I would like to thank you for all your efforts toward the goal of having all school districts and education facilities connected to the Information Superhighway.

Accordingly, 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 would indeed be beneficial to all school districts and would also provide vital services directly to the classrooms. The inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital if we are to prepare our children for the next millennium.

Our School District would implement the discounts in connecting our schools and central office to the important educational resource, known as the Information Superhighway. As you well know, all students need and should have access to these vital technological resources, and I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Dr. Alan K. Nishino
Superintendent

RR 1 Box 285
Houtzdale PA 16651
April 22, 1997

REC'D

MAY 1 1997

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

RE: Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Chong:

I am a Technology Coordinator from Moshannon Valley School District, and I am concerned that students from rural districts like ours will be left behind on the Information Superhighway. I understand that you have been working toward the goal of ensuring that all school districts will have affordable access to this Information Superhighway. I laud your efforts and ask for your continued support.

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.

We are a poor district that is large in area and located a distance from most telecommunication nodes. This means that our costs are greater than areas located close to a node. It also means our students are more isolated both geographically and culturally. Having access to the Internet will give our students an opportunity to interact on a global basis. If rates are low enough, it will also give us the opportunity to link the school with homes in the area giving parents access to up-to-date schedules, homework information and easy communication with teachers.

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

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Stephen M. Belin



MISSOURI SENATE
JEFFERSON CITY

JERRY T. HOWARD
SENATE POST OFFICE
STATE CAPITOL BUILDING, RM 428 A
JEFFERSON CITY, MO 65101
TELEPHONE (314) 751-3301
TDD (314) 751-3969

April 22, 1997

512 ONE MILE DRIVE
P.O. BOX 279
DEXTER, MO 63841
TELEPHONE (314) 624-8778

Rochelle Chong, Commissioner
1919 M Street Northwest
RM 844
Washington, DC 20554

MAY 1 1997

Dear Commissioner Chong:

Refer to: CC Docket No. 96-45

I would like to formally present my support for a fair universal service transition plan for rural telephone companies and consumers. I believe it is vital to the future rural economic development of Missouri.

I am against the adoption of a policy that could increase rates, reverse economic development and stall telecommunications progress for all of rural Missouri; especially for Bernie, Parma, Steele, Cooter and Holland, Missouri, or any rural areas of this nation.

I would like to see the FCC modify the Joint Board's recommendation on universal service for rural telephone companies, especially those located in Missouri.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jerry T. Howard".

Jerry T. Howard
Missouri Senator
District 25

cc: FCC
W.F. Provance

JTH/tm

400 Central Park West - 5P
New York, NY 10025
April 23, 1997

REC'D

MAY 1 1997

FCC
COMMUNICATIONS

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

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Chong:

As a social studies teacher at the Calhoun School in Manhattan, I would like to thank you for your work with the Federal Communications Commission. I am concerned, however, that the Telecommunications Act may not continue to include the proposed education rate, which would provide affordable access to the Internet and the World Wide Web for all schools and libraries.

Today's technology can provide rich resources for students. Unfortunately, it can also serve to widen the gap between the "haves" and the "have nots." It is imperative that we, as educators and policy makers, do not further contribute to this bifurcation. 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 discount will address the needs of all schools, and the inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn.

Our students--those at Calhoun and at schools throughout New York City--need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge you and the FCC to support fully the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Sincerely yours,


Loretta Ryan



MENIFEE UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

30205 Menifee Road, Menifee, California 92584
(909) 672-1851 • FAX (909) 672-1385

Menifee Pride
Working For You

Superintendent
Glen C. Newman, Ed.D.

April 22, 1997

The Honorable Rachelle B. Chong, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 814
Washington, D.C. 20554

FILED
MAY 1 1997

Re: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Chong:

I am writing to you in regards to the federal "E-Rate" Telecommunications Discount Program. I am a locally elected school board member from the Menifee Union School District, and I would like to express my strong support for this program and the proposed regulations governing 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, and 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, the inclusion of 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 and the other FCC commissioners 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,

Chester W. Morrison, Clerk
Governing Board of Education

CWM:na

cc: The Honorable Pete Wilson, Governor of the State of California



**FOX CHAPEL AREA
SCHOOL DISTRICT**
COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE

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

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Chong:

I am the Technology Coordinator for the Fox Chapel Area School District, outside of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. We have been connected to the Internet for five years. I would like to thank you for your commitment to ensure that all schools and libraries have affordable access to the emerging Information Highway.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan offers us the necessary incentive to move ahead with our community access network that will link our students to the larger community, including the regional community library system. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools and community members as we envision FOXCAN - the Fox Chapel Community Access Network. In our plan for next year we will develop a connection to a satellite library located in a family center site that serves our poorest students. Without the cost reductions promised by the discount plan neither our community library nor the Fox Chapel Area School District will be able to offer this service.

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

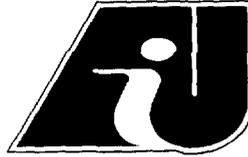
Thank you.

Sincerely,

Norton Gusky

RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997



ALLEGHENY INTERMEDIATE UNIT
A REGIONAL EDUCATION SERVICE AGENCY

April 23, 1997

MAY 1 1997

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

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Chong:

On May 8, 1997, when you vote on the FCC Federal State Joint Boards recommendation to provide significant discounts for all telecommunications services including connections within each classroom, you will have the opportunity to guarantee that all students have an equal opportunity to benefit from our nation's technological advancements. This will prove to be a major step in the efforts to prepare students for their future in which 60% of the jobs will require computer skills.

As President of the Allegheny Intermediate Unit Board of School Directors, I can assure you that our financial resources are being stretched to the limit. We face a constant struggle to meet the ever increasing demands being placed on our school district without sufficient funding to support our efforts. The proposed discounts will be a vital link in our efforts to expand the use of technology in our classrooms.

The AIU Board encourages you to support the original plan to provide discounts to schools for all telecommunications services including internal connections. This action will open the door of opportunity for every student in our country and help to prepare our workforce of the future.

Sincerely,

William R. Segar, President
AIU Board of Directors

WRS:ec

INYO COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION

COUNTY BOARD
OF EDUCATION

Ken Baker
County Superintendent of Schools

PATRICIA CALLOWAY
SCOTT DUDLEY
EMILIE MARTIN
ROBERT VILARDI
ERMA WRIGHT

April 21, 1997
The Honorable Rachelle Chong, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room
Washington, D.C. 20554

MAY 7 1997

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Chong:

I am writing to you in regard to the federal "E-Rate" Telecommunications Discount Program. I am the technology coordinator for the Inyo County Office of Education, and I would like to express my strong support for this program and the proposed regulations governing its implementation.

The Telecommunications Act of 1996 and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even small, rural schools like those in our county will have access to the Internet and the ability to provide the kinds of distance-learning opportunities that could make all the difference to students in remote areas of the country like ours. 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, the inclusion of 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 work force 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 and the other FCC commissioners 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,


Lo Lyness, Coordinator

MIDDLE GEORGIA REGIONAL EDUCATIONAL SERVICE AGENCY

P. O. Box 1148
FORT VALLEY, GEORGIA 31030

PHONE: (912) 825-3132

DR. JACKIE G. STINCHCOMB, DIRECTOR

FAX: (912) 825-8248

April 25, 1997

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

REC-11
MAY 1 1997

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Chong:

I am the director of a regional educational agency in the Middle Georgia area. In the rural areas that my agency serves, it is imperative that students have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

Our school systems need discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge the FCC to fully support the discount plan for universal service for schools.

Sincerely,

Jackie Stinchcomb



HEART OF GEORGIA
REGIONAL EDUCATIONAL SERVICE AGENCY

P.O. BOX 368 · 101 HARRELL AVENUE · EASTMAN, GA 31023 · (912) 374-2240 · FAX: (912) 374-1524

JUNE D. BRADFELD, Ed.S., Executive Director

April 24, 1997

RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997

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

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Chong:

I am Executive Director for the Heart of Georgia Regional Educational Service Agency (RESA) which includes the following counties in Georgia: Bleckley, Dodge, Laurens, Montgomery, Pulaski, Telfair, Treutlen, Wheeler, and Wilcox. 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. We desperately need it.

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. I am enclosing a copy of a letter that I sent to the Georgia Public Service Commissioner that will explain our area and concerns.

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.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

June D. Bradfield

JDB:sc

Enclosure



**Manheim Township
School District**

School Road
P.O. Box 5134
Lancaster, PA 17606-5134
PHONE: (717) 569-8231
FAX: (717) 569-3729

April 23, 1997

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

RE: Docket #96-45

Dear Commissioner Chong:

I am the Superintendent of Manheim Township School District in Pennsylvania. 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 every school 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,

Sharron V. Nelson,
Superintendent

SVN/ka

The Mission of Manheim Township School District, building on its tradition of academic excellence, is to graduate students possessing personal integrity, a broad base of knowledge, an appreciation of cultural diversity and skills in thinking and communication all acquired through an innovative learning system which encourages creativity, individual development and prepares citizens for success in a global society.

REC'D

MAY 1 1997

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

DELANO UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

1405 - 12th Avenue, Delano, California 93215 (805) 721-5000 Fax (805) 725-2446

April 21, 1997

MAY 1 1997

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

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Chong:

I am writing to you in regards to the federal "E-Rate" Telecommunications discount Program. I am the Superintendent of Delano Union Elementary School District, and I would like to express my strong support for this program and the proposed regulations governing its implementation.

It is important to remember that each element of this plan is vital to the overall success of the discount program. Therefore, the inclusion of discounts for internal classroom connections should not be eliminated, nor should the size of the Universal Service Fund be reduced. Also, I urge you to include Frame Relay Connections as part of this discount program. This is an essential technology that was omitted from the original proposal.

The E-Rate Telecommunications Discount Program is desperately overdue and our students need these discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge you and the other FCC commissioners 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,



Dr. Milton Woolsey
District Superintendent



Reorganized School District No. 7

600 S.E. Miller Street
Lee's Summit, Missouri 64063-4297
(816) 524-3368 • FAX (816) 524-0629

Office of Director of Technology

April 16, 1997

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

MAY 1 1997

Dear Commissioner Chong:

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

As the Superintendent of Schools of the Lee's Summit R-7 School District, I would like to thank you for your continued support for affordable Internet access for all students.

As you know The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that all schools, regardless of each district's financial resources, will have the opportunity to access the Internet and utilize distance-learning to supplement and/or enrich their curriculum. The \$2.25 billion a year funding from the Universal Service Fund will address the needs of all our schools, and, most importantly, will bring services directly into the classroom, thus impacting all students. The inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital for schools to prepare the workforce of tomorrow.

As the Superintendent of a growing district, we constantly struggle with parity issues between our old (pre-1950) buildings and our new buildings (two new elementary schools are currently under construction). The availability of deep discounts for telecommunications services this year can make it possible for us to deliver state-of-the-art technology to all of our buildings. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Thank you for your consideration of this issue.

Sincerely,

Tony L. Stansberry, Ph.D.
Superintendent

TLS/cmp

Millard

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Curriculum Offices • 5606 So. 147th St. • Omaha, NE 68137-2604 • (402) 895-8301 • (Fax) 895-8448

April 21, 1997

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

MAY 1 1997

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Chong,

I am the Director of Secondary Education for Millard Public Schools in Omaha, Nebraska, 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.

As you know, the Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board 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 the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital, especially in light of all the "cuts" occurring here in Nebraska.

The "discounts" would assist us greatly in the following areas:

1. **Distance Learning.** In a sparsely populated state like Nebraska, distance learning connections are essential options for increasing the curriculum available to students. If the cost is too great, this cannot happen.
2. **Network Bandwidth.** Our current data network uses a fairly low speed technology because it is less expensive. This, in turn, limits what we can do with management software and communications technology. We want to upgrade our system when it is affordable.
3. **Media Services.** One specific illustration of bandwidth limitation is the information sources now available through our media centers. We know of some other good online options, but our system is too slow to use them. We think the situation of what we need, but cannot afford, is a similar issue for most school systems.
4. **Efficiency.** Technology is making more current information available when needed for those who have access. This allows decision-makers to be more productive and to make truly informed decisions. We support the President's goal of fixing the access problem. Anything that makes entry more affordable is a step in the right direction.
5. **Student Learning.** Networks are changing how everyone has access to information and expanding what is available. It will not be acceptable if some students have this advantage and others do not. Students need access for their learning while in school and thinking about possible careers.

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.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Stephen L. Kleinsmith, Ed.D.
Director of Secondary Education

c: Dr. Keith Lutz, Superintendent



OFFICE OF GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

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April 21, 1997

The Honorable Rachelle B. Chong, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W., Room 844
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Commissioner Chong:

Re: CC Docket No. 96-45

On behalf of the Milwaukee Public School district, 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.

The 'E-rate' initiative is a critical element to the successful implementation of Milwaukee Public Schools' *Technology Strategic Plan*. We are convinced that the future of our community is linked directly to how successfully we build the Information Superhighway into teaching and learning experiences in Milwaukee.

We have a plan that is developing a broad-base of support. This plan will link each of our 6000 classrooms to the world via voice, data and interactive video communication. Training and curriculum reform to take full advantage of these enhanced capabilities are underway.

Milwaukee Public Schools is a large, urban district with high concentrations of poverty. We are also operating under state spending caps which limit our opportunities to pool resources needed to link our classrooms to the Information Superhighway. The E-rate will become an important element in addressing future communication requirements. \$2.25 billion will have a great impact and constitute a great beginning.

We are also interested in assuring that the funding reach urban districts like Milwaukee without having the impact diffused. The rules must be constructed to support the intent of the legislation. Your task is daunting, but you can be confident that Milwaukee is prepared to move forward. We will be successful, because the E-rate will create expanded opportunities for Milwaukee's students and teachers.

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 yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Doug Hase low'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. Below the signature, the name 'Doug Hase low' and title 'Chief Lobbyist' are printed in a black, sans-serif font.

Doug Hase low
Chief Lobbyist

DH/dz

RECEIVED
MAY 1 1997



Burlingame School District

2303 Trousdale Drive
Burlingame, CA 94010
Telephone [415] 259-3800
Fax [415] 259-3820

April 23, 1997

Rachelle B. Chong, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 844
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Chong:

I am writing to you in regards to the federal "E-Rate" Telecommunications Discount Program. I am a locally elected school board member from the Burlingame School District, and I would like to express my strong support for this program and the proposed regulations governing 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, and 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, the inclusion of 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 and the other FCC commissioners 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,

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Board of Trustees

Mrs. Jean Fiske
Mr. Steven Glick
Mrs. Laurie Hoffman
Mrs. Mary Peros
Mrs. Lisa Rosenthal

MR. ROBERT E. BEUTHEL
SUPERINTENDENT

MAY 1 1997



Spartanburg County School District Three

Post Office Box 267 • Glendale, South Carolina 29346 • (864) 579-8000

Share The Pride

Jim Ray, Ph. D.
Superintendent

April 23, 1997

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

RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997

Re: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Chong:

I am Superintendent of Spartanburg County School District Three, 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.

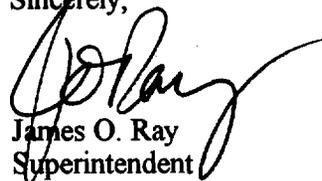
The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board decision will guarantee that all school districts have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools and importantly, the plan will 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 E-rate discounts will give our district the opportunity to take advantage of this vast and far-reaching tool called the Internet. Our students, teachers, and surrounding community will benefit in so many ways that this letter can only scratch the surface. Students can gain instant access to the knowledge base of not only our local colleges like Wofford but distant universities like Harvard. Students and teachers will be able to consult with other students, teachers and professionals from around the world. Teachers will be able to enrich their lesson plans with so many resources that it is really not comprehensible. Teachers will send E-mail to parents about their child's achievements and areas for improvement every day if necessary. A new avenue of communication will be created between the district and the community through E-mail and World Wide Web pages. This will allow the district to keep parents and community members better informed about policies and happenings in the district. Hopefully this will create a feeling of ownership within the surrounding community so that our district may benefit from more community participation. The opportunities created by Internet access are really only limited by the imagination of those who use it.

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.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



James O. Ray
Superintendent

JOR/jt