

CC96 #5



McCormick County School District  
821 North Mine Street  
McCormick, South Carolina 29835

Charles Parnell  
Superintendent

April 21, 1997

RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997

The Honorable Susan Ness  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M. Street, NW, Room 844  
Washington, DC 20554

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of General Counsel

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Ness:

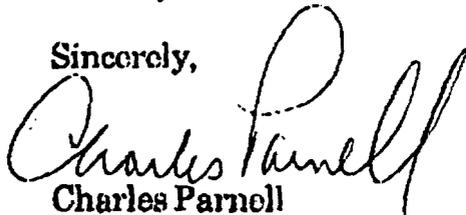
I am a superintendent from your school district name, and I would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all school districts and education consortia will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

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.

Our district has one of the lowest tax bases in the state. Therefore, sufficient funds are not available to meet technology needs. Our students will not be technology literate and our teachers will not have access to technology for instructional purposes, without sufficient assistance.

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,  
  
Charles Parnell  
Superintendent

APR 21 1997  
OFFICE OF  
GENERAL COUNSEL  
FCC



## San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools

601 North E Street • San Bernardino, CA 92410-3093 • (909) 387-4386 • FAX (909) 387-8950 or 387-4481

CC96-45  
Barry Pulliam, Ed.D., Superintendent • (909) 387-4386

Administrative Services Division • (909) 387-3205

Business Services • (909) 387-4359

Curriculum/Instruction Division • (909) 387-3121

Information Systems • (909) 387-4466

Student Services Division • (909) 387-4417

April 17, 1997

Ms. Susan Ness, Commissioner  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, N.W., Room 832  
Washington, D.C. 20554

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MAY 1 1997

Dear Commissioner Ness,

On behalf of the San Bernardino Public Schools team, I am writing you to thank you and offer our full support of your efforts in ensuring all schools have affordable access to the Information Superhighway via the proposed "E-Rate" Telecommunications Discount.

As you know, San Bernardino County is the largest geographical county in the country. With this size challenge, the issue of access for our students is a significant one. Out of our approximately 13,249 classrooms, 10% have Internet access. Obviously, the major reason for this current low access rate is the lack of funding. Our county alone would benefit by a projected \$60 Million share of discounts realized from the "E-Rate" proposal. These discounts would allow for re-distribution of operational budgets to provide for critical technology infrastructure and equipment. On average, 50% of the students in our county participate in the National School Lunch Program (NLSP) and would benefit from the FCC proposal. If we as a nation truly desire to continue with the philosophy of equal access to education for all, it sure should follow that there must be provisions for equal technology access for all.

On the attached signature page, you will find that we as a county are in full support of your proposal. All district superintendents in the county have signed showing their support and encouragement of the proposal. I am sending you this under my signature, but please remember that I am only a facilitator of the wishes and requests of the districts in our county which serve a 340,000 K-12 student population.

Representing a Unified Strong Voice Of Support,

Barry Pulliam  
Superintendent, San Bernardino County Schools

BP:TK:cs

CC 96-45

# USD 251 North Lyon County

Superintendent  
Steven Mollach

Clerk  
Mary Y. Oliver

Treasurer  
Judith Mundy

Box 527  
Americus, Kansas 66835  
Phone: 316-443-5116  
Fax: 316-443-5659

Board of Education  
Gene Graber, President  
Joe Fehr, Vice-President  
Sherry Andersen  
Kitty Frank  
Ronda Hooper  
Jerry Retallick  
Roger Wells

*"Where Learning is a Journey, Not a Race"*

April 16, 1997

RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997

APR 21 2 51 PM '97  
RECEIVED  
OFFICE OF  
COMMUNICATIONS

The Honorable Susan Ness, Commissioner  
Federal Communication Commission  
1919 NM Street, N.W., Room 832  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Commissioner Ness:

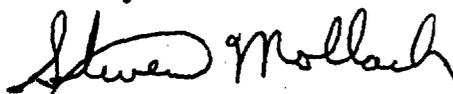
My name is Steven Mollach and I am Superintendent of Schools of Unified School District #251 North Lyon County, Americus, Kansas. I realize in the very near future you will be reviewing and eventually voting on recommendations as they relate to the Telecommunications Act of 1996.

Recently our Board of Education made a commitment of \$110,000. for an Interactive Distance Learning Lab for our schools. Yesterday, I reviewed the potential course offerings which included Calculus, Japanese, College Composition I and II, Economics, College Algebra, College Speech and we will be able to access the Astrophysical Observatory at Greenbush. We are extremely proud of this commitment but I am compelled to ask for your assistance so we can complete our vision for a small rural school system.

Our district needs the deep discounts the 1996 Act provides. While not depending on the discounts, the thought they could be available certainly entered into our pre-commitment discussions. Our line cost will be \$18,000. per year which, as I understand, is considered above the average cost in Kansas. Yes, we will find a way to fund the cost, but it only means another budget will suffer.

The need is here and the time is now for you to help our students reach their fullest potential. I urge you to support the discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Sincerely,



Steven Mollach  
Superintendent of Schools

### DISTRICT ATTENDANCE CENTERS

ADMIRE ELEMENTARY  
Bill Stattelmann, Principal  
100 East 3rd  
Admire, Kansas 66830  
316-528-3431

AMERICUS ELEMENTARY  
Keith Entress, Principal  
Box 497  
Americus, Kansas 66835  
316-443-5165

NORTHERN HEIGHTS HIGH  
Don Duncan, Principal  
1208 Road 345  
Allen, Kansas 66833  
316-528-3521

READING ELEMENTARY  
Brad Butler, Principal  
Box 38  
Reading, Kansas 66868  
316-699-3827

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OFFICE OF  
COMMUNICATIONS

APR 21 11 51 AM '97

April 15, 1997

FILED

MAY 1 1997

The Honorable Susan Ness, Commissioner  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M. Street, NW, Room 844  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Commissioner Ness:

Although West Virginia has fewer financial resources than most other states, the State Board of Education, the West Virginia Legislature, county boards of education, regional educational service agencies, and schools have made extraordinary efforts to keep our school abreast with the rest of the nation in educational technology. However, in order for us to continue to improve opportunities for our children, it is imperative that the Federal Communications Commission approve the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan for universal service for schools.

It is particularly important that schools and school districts receive the proposed deep discounts for internal classroom wiring and connections. Without proper internal wiring, the needed services will not get to the classroom where they will be most effective. It is also important that no state mechanisms for evaluation of telecommunication plans be included in the final guidelines, since this will undermine schools' opportunities to develop plans which will best meet the unique needs of individual schools.

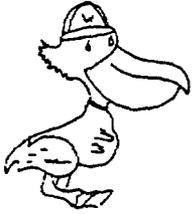
Your consideration of this request will be greatly appreciated. Students and teachers of West Virginia's Northern Panhandle are looking forward to quickly taking advantage of the quality educational experiences which will be made possible through the Telecommunications Act of 1996 and the FCC regulations.

Sincerely,



Stanley C. Stewart  
Executive Director

SCS/lcc



# 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

MAY 1 1997

APR 21 2 52 PM '97

RECEIVED  
OFFICE OF  
COMMUNICATIONS

Re: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Ness:

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,



# WOODLAKE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

1620 LIVINGSTON STREET • MANDEVILLE, LA 70448

MARIAN C. ARROWSMITH, PRINCIPAL  
JEAN KRIEGER, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

APR 21 2 51 PM '97



April 8, 1997

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

MAY 1 1997

Re: CC Docket No. 96-45

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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,

*Deanne C. Hall*



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

RECEIVED  
OFFICE OF  
APR 21 2 57 PM '97

RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997

April 15, 1997

The Honorable Susan Ness, Commissioner  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, NW, Room 844  
Washington, DC 20554

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Ness:

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 21<sup>st</sup> century competitive edge.

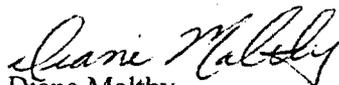
Yet, an inequity still exists among our school districts. There is great disparity regarding available technology among the end user sites. Many of the 40 schools located in Delta and Schoolcraft county do not have the internal connections necessary to access our wide area distance learning network. 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



**Contra Costa County Board of Education**  
Contra Costa County Office of Education

RECEIVED  
OFFICE OF  
COMMISSIONER  
SUSAN NESS

MAY 1 1997

77 Santa Barbara Road • Pleasant Hill, CA 94523 • (510) 942-3380

April 24, 1997

The Honorable Susan Ness, Commissioner  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, NW, Room 832  
Washington, DC 20554

Post-it® Fax Note	7671	Date	4/24/97	# of pages	1
To	HON. S. NESS	From	PAMELA MIRABELLA		
Co./Dept.	FCC	Co.	C.C.C. OFFICE OF ED.		
Phone #	202/418-2100	Phone #	510/942-2780		
Fax #	202/418-2821	Fax #	510/942-0875		

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Ness:

I am writing to you in regard to the federal "E-Rate" Telecommunications Discount Program. I am a locally elected school board member from the Contra Costa 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 disparately 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,

Pamela Mirabella, President  
Contra Costa County Board of Education

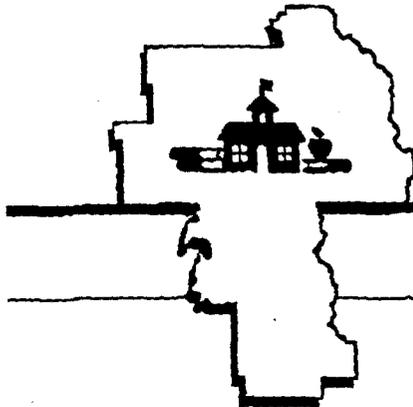
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RECEIVED  
MAY 1 1997

APR

Lake County Courthouse  
106 Fourth Avenue East  
Polson, Montana 59860-2187  
Phone (406) 883-7262  
Fax (406) 883-7283



Lake County

Joyce Decker Wegner, Superintendent of Schools

"The Future Lies In the Minds of Tomorrow"

April 23, 1997

The Honorable Susan Ness, Commissioner  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, NW, Room 844  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Commissioner Ness:

I am the Lake County Superintendent of Schools over eight district schools in Montana serving as liaison office between the districts and the State Office of Public Instruction. Three of the districts have small isolated two-room schools without administrators so I directly supervise those schools. I wish to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all school districts and education consortia will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway. Being on the electronic highway is vital for us in Montana with the vast geographic distances our districts cover and the barriers between them. Lake County has four different telephone companies operating with long distance charges between all of them. One of my isolated districts has two two-room schools twenty miles apart with long distance charges between each of them and between my office. This district, like two others, tries to provide quality education with a total operating budget of less than \$100,000. It is essential for all of us to provide the best education possible in the most efficient manner. Connectivity to each other and our local libraries via Internet e-mail and home pages will greatly assist this collaborative effort so that better education in the classroom can be improved.

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 with an ability for connectivity between our cooperating districts and the small public libraries that serve them is essential if we hope to prepare our students for the workforce of tomorrow. More essential is that we prepare them to be people able to communicate with each other and the continuously shrinking world around us. We want our Montana students to be from THE LAST BEST PLACE in connection with the world. If we can get connectivity, including opportunities for distance learning and distance staff development, we will be active learners on the electronic superhighway.

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 for your work towards these goals.

Sincerely,

Joyce Decker Wegner  
County Superintendent of Schools

**AARON YUSEM**

4865 EXCELENTE DR  
WOODLAND HILLS, CA 91364  
USA

Phone 818-224-2211  
Fax 818-224-2211

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OFFICE OF  
COMMISSIONER  
SUSAN NESS  
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MAY 1 1997

April 23, 1997

The Honorable Susan Ness, Commissioner  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, NW, Room 844  
Washington, DC 20554  
fax 202-418-2821

PJE: CC Docket No. 06-45

Dear Commissioner

I am a parent/community representative in the Los Angeles Unified School District at Hale Middle School and El Camino High School, 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 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 work force of tomorrow.

At both locations that I am involved with, one of my duties is formation of a technology plan. The most obvious limiting factor is cost. In order to reach the most students possible with a technology base that is up-to-date, access to the Internet has been shown to be a necessary integral part of any plan. The ability to access information quickly and efficiently for a large number of students is mandatory. As our students graduate into the work force, knowledge and understanding of computers will not be a choice, but will be compulsory and must be made available to all students.

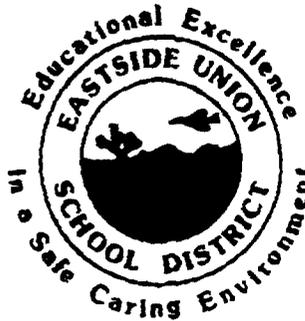
Our students need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools.

Sincerely,

*Aaron Yusem*

Aaron Yusem

Constance E. Webb  
Superintendent



Board of Education

Mrs. Ida Ward, President  
Mr. Larry Lake, Vice-President  
Mr. Willard Ritchie, Clerk  
Mrs. Martha D. Johnson, Member  
Mrs. Janette T. Crawford, Member

RECEIVED April 18, 1997

MAY 1 1997

APR 23 2 10 PM

The Honorable Susan Ness  
Commissioner (Maryland)  
Federal Communications Commission  
FAX #202-418-2821  
1919 M Street, NW, Room 844  
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Ness:

I am writing to you in regard to the Federal "E-Rate" Telecommunications Discount Rate Program. I am a locally elected school board member from the Eastside 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 most importantly, the plan will bring telecommunications services directly to the classroom 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 implementation of discounts on internal classroom connections should not be eliminated nor should the size of the Universal Service Fund be reduced. As I am sure 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 requiring the discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Board of Trustees  
Eastside Union School District



RECEIVED  
OFFICE OF  
COMMISSIONER  
SUSAN NESS

APR 24 1 50 PM '97

Board of Trustees  
Shauna Lyn Briggs  
Al Christenson  
Austin Linsley  
Judy Rosen  
Margi Wray

April 23, 1997

RECEIVED  
MAY 1 1997

Susan Ness, Commissioner  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, NW, Room 832  
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Ness:

I am writing to you in regards to the federal "E-Rate" Telecommunications Discount Program. I am a locally elected school board member from Murrieta Valley 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 county, and more importantly, the plan will bring telecommunications services directly to the classroom, 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,

*Al Christenson*

Al Christenson  
President  
Board of Education

AC/nc

Post-it* Fax Note		7671	Date	4-29-97	# of Pages	1
To	<i>S. Ness</i>		From	<i>Al Christenson</i>		
Co./Dept.	FCC		Co.	MVUSD		
Phone #	202-418-2100		Phone #	909-696-1601		
Fax #	202-418-2821		Fax #	909-696-1640		

21 April 1997

RECEIVED  
MAY 1 1997

**MERCY  
HIGH SCHOOL**

1300 E. Northern Parkway  
Baltimore, MD 21239-1998  
410-433-8880



The Honorable Susan Ness  
Commissioner  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, NW  
Room 832  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Ness:

I am writing to thank you for your dedicated efforts to ensure affordable access to the Information Superhighway for libraries and schools.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board plan will provide this access to even the poorest of our nation's schools. Your inclusion of discounts for internal classroom connections as well as Internet service provider costs is critical.

On behalf of the entire Mercy High School community, I ask the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan. We thank you sincerely for your good work in this vital educational arena.

Sincerely,

Sister Carol Wheeler, RSM  
Principal

CEW/car

APR 24 11 39 AM '97

RECEIVED  
OFFICE OF  
COMMISSIONER  
SUSAN NESS



# San Ysidro School District

*Excellence is our goal*

## Governing Board

- Jean A. Romero, President
- Ernestine Jones, Clerk
- Luis Antonio Figueroa, Member
- Yolanda Hernandez, Member
- Juan M. Trujillo, Member

**Julian T. Lopez, Ph.D.**  
Superintendent

April 17, 1997

RECEIVED  
MAY 1 1997

Susan Ness, Commissioner  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, NW, Room 832  
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

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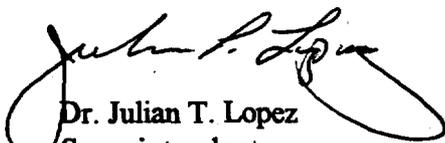
I am writing to you in regards to the federal "E-Rate" Telecommunications Discount Program. I am the superintendent of the San Ysidro School District, and I would like to express my strong support for this program and the proposed regulations governing its implementation.

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,

  
Dr. Julian T. Lopez  
Superintendent

APR 24 11 40 AM '97  
OFFICE OF  
COMMISSIONER  
SUSAN NESS



# Santa Ana Unified School District

Al Mijares, Ph.D., Superintendent

April 21, 1997

The Honorable Susan Ness  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M. Street, NW, Room 832  
Washington, D.C. 20554

RECEIVED  
MAY 1 1997

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Ness,

I am writing to you in regard to the federal "E-Rate" Telecommunications Discount Program. I am a locally elected school board member from Santa Ana 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 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.

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Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Robert W. Balen  
Santa Ana Unified School District

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OFFICE OF  
COMMISSIONER  
SUSAN NESS  
APR 24 11 40 AM '97

1601 East Chestnut Avenue, Santa Ana, CA 92701-6322, (714) 558-5501

## BOARD OF EDUCATION

Nativo Lopez, President • Aida Espinoza, Vice President • Robert W. Balen, Clerk

**LOGAN COUNTY SCHOOLS**

CC96-45

506 Holly Avenue, Box 477, Logan, West Virginia 25601 (304) 752-1550 Fax (304) 752-3711

**John D. Myers**  
**Superintendent**

Logan County  
Board of Education

Don Steele, President  
Phyllis D. Adkins  
Paul Hardesty  
Robert J. Wolfe  
Greg Wooten

April 17, 1997

RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997

APR 24 11 40 AM '97

RECEIVED  
OFFICE OF  
COMMISSIONER  
SUSAN NESS

The Honorable Susan Ness  
Federal Communications Commissioner  
1919 M Street, NW, Room 844  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Commissioner Ness:

Although West Virginia has less financial resources than most other states, the State Board of Education, the West Virginia Legislature, county boards of education, regional educational service agencies, and schools have made extraordinary efforts to keep our schools abreast of the rest of the nation in educational technology. In order for us to continue to improve opportunities for our children, it is imperative that the Federal Communications Commission approve the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan for universal service for schools.

It is particularly important that schools and school districts receive the proposed deep discounts for internal classroom wiring and connections. Without proper internal wiring, the needed services will not get to the classroom where they will be most effective. It is also important that local control of telecommunication plans be included in the final guidelines since this will provide schools an opportunity to develop plans which will best meet the unique needs of individual schools.

Thank you for your consideration of these requests. Students and teachers of southwestern West Virginia are looking forward to quickly taking advantage of the quality educational experiences which will be made possible by the Telecommunications Act of 1996 and the FCC regulations which will soon be approved.

Respectfully yours,



John D. Myers  
Superintendent

JDM:jsb



# Washington Colony School District

130 East Lincoln Avenue • Fresno, California 93706  
209/ 233-0706 • FAX 209/ 233-9583

April 18, 1997

The Honorable Susan Ness  
Commissioner  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, NW, Room 832  
Washington, D.C. 20554

REC'D  
MAY 1 1997

RECEIVED  
OFFICE OF  
COMMISSIONER  
SUSAN NESS  
APR 24 11 40 AM '97

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Ness:

I am writing to you in regards to the federal "E-Rate" Telecommunications Discount Program. I am a locally elected school board member from Washington Colony Elementary 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,

CC 96-45

RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997

Dear Commissioner Ness:

I am a Technology Coordinator from the Wilkes-Barre Area School District, located within the Pennsylvania Department of Education, 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.

Wilkes-Barre Area School District is in the state of chronic economic depression since the collapse of the coal industry in the 1950's. We have an aide ratio of .5610 with a student population of 7,421. In order for our children to compete, we need your help. It is vital that we place a higher level of technology into the hands of our children and teachers in order to level the playing field of achievement and help our students become more competitive.

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,

Charlotte C. Kordek  
25 South Grant Street  
Wilkes-Barre, Pa  
Tel (717) 820-3771  
Fax (717) 826-7164

RECEIVED  
OFFICE OF  
COMMISSIONER  
FRANCIS NESS  
Apr 29 11 40 AM '97

CLARENDON SCHOOL DISTRICT TWO

15 MAJOR DRIVE  
POST OFFICE BOX 1252  
MANNING, SOUTH CAROLINA 29102

ROSE H. WILDER, ED. D.  
SUPERINTENDENT

TELEPHONE:  
803/435-4435  
FAX:  
803/435-8172

April 15, 1997

The Honorable Susan Ness, Commissioner  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M. Street, NW, Room 844  
Washington, DC 29554

Re: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Ness:

I am a superintendent from Clarendon School District Two, 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.

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,

  
Rose Hilliard-Wilder, Ed.D  
Superintendent

REC-11

MAY 1 1997

APR 24 11 40 AM '97

RECEIVED  
OFFICE OF  
COMMISSIONER  
SUSAN NESS

# South Fayette Township School District



2250 OLD OAKDALE ROAD  
McDONALD, PENNSYLVANIA 15057  
(412) 221-4542  
FAX (412) 693-2883

DR. LINDA B. HIPPERT  
*Superintendent*

April 21, 1997

REC'D

MAY 1 1997

The Honorable Susan Ness, Commissioner  
Federal Communication Commission  
1919 M Street, N.W., Room 844  
Washington, DC 20554

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Ness:

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 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 business demands and that our workforce will need in order 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,

*Linda B. Hippert*  
Linda B. Hippert, Ed. D  
Superintendent of Schools

pc: Board of School Directors

APR 24 11 40 AM '97

OFFICE OF  
COMMISSIONER  
SUSAN NESS

# william penn school district

ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, GREEN AVENUE ANNEX  
100 Green Avenue, Lansdowne, Pennsylvania 19050-1699



(610) 284-8000  
(Fax) 284-8054

April 22, 1997

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MAY 1 1997

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OFFICE OF  
COMMISSIONER  
SUSAN NESS

The Honorable Susan Ness  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, NW, Room 844  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Ness:

I am an assistant superintendent from William Penn School District, 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.

William Penn School District is a diverse district with extremely limited resources and poor financial base. Although we have an excellent technology plan, we lack the funding to implement it. Only our high school has a connection to the internet. Your actions can help others to become connected.

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. Your decision will have a monumental effect on the education of thousands of students in the William Penn School District. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Dr. James O'Toole  
Assistant Superintendent  
Phone: 610-284-8009, Ext. 252

JOT:jcr



**Bozeman Public Schools**

404 West Main, PO Box 520  
Bozeman, MT 59771-0520  
Voice: (406)585-1500  
Fax: (406)585-1504

**Steven D. Johnson**  
Assistant Superintendent  
Business and Operations  
Extension 1508

**Suzanne Becker**  
Accounting  
Extension 1506

**Connie Campbell**  
Transportation  
Extension 1508

**Christine Day**  
Information Systems  
Extension 1560

**Gary J. Griffith**  
Maintenance Supervisor  
Extension 1540

**Sara G. Walker**  
Payroll and Benefits  
Extension 1507

**Robert Burrows**  
Support Services Supervisor  
Support Services Building  
501 North 11th  
(406) 585-1675  
Extension 1562

April 23, 1997

The Honorable Susan Ness, Commissioner  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20554

SUBJECT: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Ness:

I am the Media/Technology Supervisor of Bozeman Public Schools and was fortunate enough to attend the EDLINC meeting on the Telecommunications act of 1996 in Washington, D.C. on February 24, 1997. It is comforting to know that the FCC recognizes the need for technology in the classrooms to prepare our students to be the workforce of tomorrow.

We are fortunate to have direct internet access to all eleven of our schools. Our community, administrators and school board recognize the importance of technology and long distance learning. Within five years we plan to have all of our classrooms networked. Internal cabling has been very expensive so far. We have received some volunteer labor, but the majority of the interior cabling is contracted out at great expense. The inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is essential in the implementation of the Telecommunications ACT of 1996 for schools and libraries.

We have voice mail and e-mail available to all of our teachers for better communication in the district and the community. We also have home pages for our district and each of our schools. The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board decision to ensure this access at a discounted rate for all schools is a necessity, especially in low population states such as Montana.

The \$2.25 billion a year will enable more classrooms to get connected, bringing unlimited resources to students. We are currently spending \$64,938 per year for our telephone and data communication leased lines. With the addition of E-rate discounts, we will be able to use the savings for technology training and classroom equipment. It is also imperative to have cable TV and satellite services to be included in the discount.

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,

Christine Day  
Media/Technology Supervisor  
Bozeman School District #7

RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997

APR 24 11 50 AM '97

RECEIVED  
OFFICE OF  
COMMISSIONER  
SUSAN NESS

**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

The Honorable Susan Ness  
Commissioner 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 Ness: :

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. Jeffrey Scrim  
Board Member

OFFICE OF  
COMMISSIONER  
SUSAN NESS  
Apr 24 12 03 PM '97

**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

The Honorable Susan Ness  
Commissioner  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, NW, Room 844  
Washington, DC 20554

RE: CC Docket No 96-45

Dear Commissioner Ness: :

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.

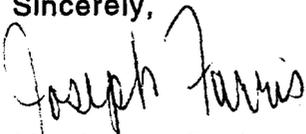
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Our students need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Mr. Joseph Farris  
Board Member

RECEIVED  
MAY 1 1997

APR 24 12 03 PM '97

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OFFICE OF  
COMMISSIONER  
SUSAN NESS

**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

RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997

The Honorable Susan Ness  
Commissioner  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, NW, Room 844  
Washington, DC 20554

RE: CC Docket No 96-45

Dear Commissioner Ness:

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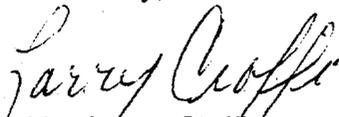
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Our students need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

  
Mr. Larry Cioffi  
Board Member

APR 24 12 03 PM '97

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OFFICE OF  
COMMISSIONER  
SUSAN NESS