

**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

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. Michael Michalajko  
Board Member

OFFICE OF  
COMMISSIONER  
SUSAN NESS  
APR 24 12 12 PM '97

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

**Telephone: (412) 656-4771**  
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April 17, 1997

The Honorable Susan Ness  
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 the Superintendent 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.

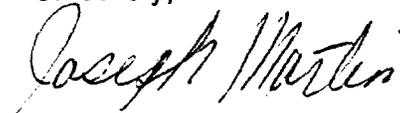
The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even the poorest schools will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools, and importantly, 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.

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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 A. Martin, Jr.  
Superintendent

OFFICE OF  
COMMISSIONER  
SUSAN NESS

APR 24 12 12 PM '97

1830 Nogales Street  
P.O. Box 8490  
Rowland Heights  
CA 91748

(818) 865-2541  
(Fax) 854-8302



**Governing Board**  
Jerre Davenport  
Peter H. Lamphere  
Mary Jo Maxwell  
Paul E. Walters  
Melody Yu

Dr. Ronald J. Leon,  
Superintendent

Office of the Superintendent

April 22, 1997

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

RECEIVED  
MAY 1 1997

Dear Honorable Ness:

On behalf of the Rowland Unified School District, in Los Angeles County, California, I urge you to support the proposed "e-rate" for our schools.

Affordable access to the Information Superhighway is one important educational tool needed to prepare California students for the job market of the next century.

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 bring technology/telecommunication access into the classroom. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital.

Rowland Unified is committed to bringing the world into our classrooms and extending student learning experiences beyond the confines of the school. Deep discounts for telecommunication services will enable this effort to move forward in 1997 and future years.

I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools, and thank you for your support of our future citizens.

Sincerely,

Ronald J. Leon, Ed.D.

RJL:ac

c: Board of Education

APR 23 9 45 AM '97  
OFFICE OF  
COMMISSIONER  
SUSAN NESS



## Education Association of Charles County

3555 Leonardtown Road  
Waldorf, Maryland 20601  
(301) 645-3232  
(301) 843-7757  
Fax: (301) 645-6352

April 22, 1997

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

RECEIVED  
MAY 1 1997

RE: CC Docket NO. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Ness:

As president of the Education Association of Charles County Maryland which represents over 1,000 educators, I am writing in support of the Universal Service discounts for schools and libraries that have been recommended by the Joint Board.

We 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 Joint Board discount plan will guaranteed 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 discount is vital. This plan is essential for preparing the workforce of tomorrow.

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

Thank you.

Sincerely,

*Bob Sondheimer*

Bob Sondheimer  
President

Apr 23 9 46 AM '97

OFFICE OF  
COMMISSIONER  
SUSAN NESS

CC 96-45

5 NEARFIELD ROAD  
LUTHERVILLE, MARYLAND 21093

April 21, 1997

RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997

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

Dear Ms. Ness,

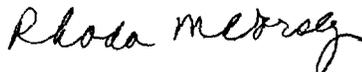
I am a member of the Board of Trustees at Roland Park Country School, and I would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all schools and libraries have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

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 the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital, as is your inclusion of Internet Service Provider costs. This plan is essential for preparing the workforce of tomorrow.

At the Roland Park Country School, use of the Internet is integrated in all aspects of our curriculum from elementary through high school. This accessible and dynamic tool enables our students in the city of Baltimore to experience the world. They can use the Internet to do research on cutting-edge developments in genetics for science papers and can explore the museums of Paris for their art history papers. They can share their opinions on current events with the White House and share their daily experiences with students half way around the world. This invaluable tool has expanded and enhanced the students' learning experiences and enables them to experience first-hand the global community they are a part of.

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

Sincerely,



Rhoda M. Dorsey

Apr 24 11 39 AM '97

OFFICE OF  
COMMISSIONER  
SUSAN NESS



**THE SCHOOL BOARD OF ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA**

215 West Garden Street P. O. Box 1470  
Pensacola, Florida 32597 (904) 469-6155

CC964

Barbara Morris  
Chairman  
District II  
Dr. Elmer Jenkins  
Vice Chairman  
District III

April 18, 1997

Jim C. Bailey  
District I  
Dr. John DeWitt  
District IV  
Vanette Webb  
District V  
Louis F. Ray, Jr.  
Attorney

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RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997

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

Dear Commissioner Ness:

As a School Board Member from Escambia County, Florida, I want to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all schools will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

I am excited about the discount plan proposed by the Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board. I believe it 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. In Escambia County we have been struggling to keep up with the many needs of our students. We believe in the distance learning concept and would welcome your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts. This plan is essential for preparing the workforce of tomorrow.

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

Sincerely,

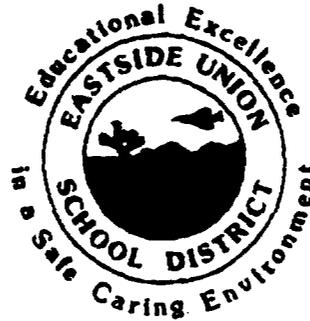
Barbara Morris  
Member, District 2

BM:ljw

APR 24 12 13 PM '97

OFFICE OF  
COMMISSIONER  
SUSAN NESS

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

April 18, 1997

RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997

Apr 23 6 14 PM '97  
OFFICE OF  
COMMISSIONER  
SUSAN HESS

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.

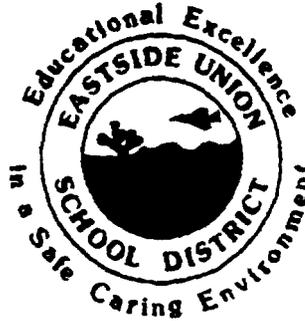
The E-Rate Telecommunications Discount Program is desperately overdue and our students need these discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge you and the other FCC commissioners to fully support the recommendations of the Joint Board and approve the proposed final regulations requiring 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

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

April 18, 1997

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:

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MAY 1 1997

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OFFICE OF  
COMMISSIONER  
SUSAN NESS  
APR 23 6 14 PM '97

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



April 27, 1997

Katherine S. Ferguson, M.D.  
"Dr. Kitty"  
FAAP  
Pediatrics

Commissioner Raebelle Chong  
Federal Communications Commission  
Washington, DC  
Fax: (202)418-0232

William W. Ferguson, M.D.  
"Dr. Bill"  
FAAFP  
Family Practice

Dear Commissioner Chong,

Patrick O'Donoghue, M.D.  
"Dr. Patrick"  
Ph.D., MPH, FAAFP  
Family Practice

Six months ago I left NASA Headquarters, Washington, DC, where I directed NASA's telemedicine programs from 1993 to 1996, and moved to Ridgecrest, California, to gain a better understanding of the needs of rural healthcare providers and patients for telemedicine. During my tenure in Washington I had the opportunity to interact with other many consultants and experts on telemedicine in various forums, including my membership on the Interagency Healthcare Information Working Group and the Advisory Group to the House/Senate Committee on Telemedicine and Healthcare Informatics. I had become convinced that there was a lack of understanding of rural telemedicine needs by most telemedicine consultants and "experts." My last six months in rural practice in California confirms my beliefs.

Earl W. Ferguson, M.D., Ph.D.  
"Dr. Earl"  
FACC, FACP, FACPM  
Cardiology, Internal Medicine,  
Preventive Medicine

What rural America needs is better access to information -- including healthcare information -- at a reasonable cost. Expensive, point-to-point interactive video telemedicine systems to consult with distant consultants in academic medical centers is not the answer. The answer is Internet telemedicine and rapid exchange of healthcare information, including store-and-forward -- as well as some interactions in real-time -- over computer networks. Cost effective systems can be built to markedly increase the quality of healthcare available to rural communities through increased "connectivity" of both healthcare providers and patients. Access to information and the opportunity for information exchange over the World Wide Web has tremendous potential to improve healthcare in rural areas.

The Federal Communications Commission's decisions in its implementation of the healthcare communications provisions of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 will "make or break" Internet telemedicine in rural areas. If the cost of Internet access and high speed data lines (ISDN, T1 lines, etc) in rural areas remains many times higher than the cost in urban areas, cost-effective Internet telemedicine efforts will be adversely affected and the quality of healthcare services in rural California and other states will suffer.

I strongly urge you to assure that "distance charges" and similar barriers to telemedicine services be removed by the FCC in its rule making. You can do a great service for rural Californians and all rural Americans if you champion this important cause.

If I can be of any service to you in further discussion of this matter or in helping you to understand these or any other issues relating to telemedicine, please feel free to contact me. My personal office telephone number is (760)446-0812.

Sincerely yours,

Earl W. Ferguson, M.D., Ph.D.

(619) 446-6404  
fax (619) 446-6415

1041 N. China Lake Blvd.  
Ridgecrest, California 93555



# 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

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

MAY 1 1997

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45  
Letter of Support

Dear Chairman Hundt:

It is my understanding that you are now working to implement the Telecommunications Act of 1996 for schools and libraries. Let me take this opportunity to thank you for your dedication to the boys and girls of Georgia. I am an educational consultant working with children and adults from ten school systems in the Heart of GA RESA area. They include the counties of Bleckley, Dodge, Laurens, Montgomery, Pulaski, Telfair, Treutlen, Wheeler and Wilcox and the city system of Dublin.

As you can see, our systems are rural and lacking many of the amenities of large systems such as those found in the metropolitan areas of our state. Most of our students come from families whose parent(s) have little education and who are well below the poverty level. These children have little opportunity for success except for those opportunities which are provided by their schools.

The Telecommunications Act will guarantee that the schools in our area will receive much-needed telecommunications discounts that will enable them to have access to distance-learning opportunities and Internet capabilities. This will ensure that our students will have opportunity for success.

I ask that you consider the futures of the children in our area and support the Telecommunications Act. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Donna Wynn



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

April 22, 1997

MAY 1 1997

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

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Hundt:

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/mc

Post-It® Fax Note	7671	Date	4-24-97	# of pages	1
To	Reed Hundt	From	Al Christenson		
Co./Dept.	FCC	Co.	MVUSD		
Phone #	202-418-1000	Phone #	909-696-1601		
Fax #	202-418-2801	Fax #	909-696-1640		

CC 96-45

FILED

MAY 1 1997

April 24, 1997

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

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Hundt:

I am the educational technology coordinator for the Treutlen County school system, and I would like to express my gratitude for the actions you have taken to ensure that all school districts will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway. In my position, I am very much aware of the impact technology has on our everyday lives and especially on education.

I am also the vocational education coordinator for our school system and, thus, very concerned about the preparation of our students for the workforce of tomorrow. The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board decision will guarantee that small, rural school systems like ours will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet. It will also allow our school system to continue to provide distance-learning opportunities. It is important to bring these services directly to the classroom where students learn. Thus, your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is crucial.

We currently have one dial-in connection to the Internet at two of our three schools. Needless to say, we cannot meet the needs of all our students with this limited access. These discounts would allow us to provide the wonderful resources available on the Information Superhighway to a greater number of students, a benefit magnified by our inaccessibility to more traditional resources that are available to schools in more populated parts of our state.

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,



Jane Currie  
Technology/Vocational Coordinator

CC-96-45

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

MAY 1 1997

4-24-97

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I am writing to you in regards to the federal "E-Rate Telecommunications Discount Program. I am an employee of the Lassen 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 service for schools and libraries.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

*Gayle Triplett*

CC 96-45

# PERSHING COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

P. O. BOX 389

LOVELOCK, NEVADA 89419

DANIEL W. FOX

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

LOVELOCK/IMLAY

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

JAMES B. ROWE, PRINCIPAL

PERSHING CO. HIGH SCHOOL  
RONALD E. BECK, PRINCIPAL

PERSHING CO. MIDDLE SCHOOL  
ANITA R. FISK, PRINCIPAL

MAY 1 1997

April 25, 1997

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, NW, Room 844  
Washington, DC 20554  
FAX 202-418-2801

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

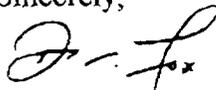
Dear Chairman Hundt:

I am the Superintendent of Schools for the Pershing County School District in rural Nevada and 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 significant discounts for telecommunication services this year. Whereas we only enroll 1,002 students, our district covers approximately 6,100 square miles! We are rural and we are distant. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Daniel W. Fox  
Superintendent of Schools

CC: 96-45

**June Lewis**

Route 2 Box 45  
McRae, Georgia 31055  
Phone 912-374-2240  
Fax 912-374-1524  
Home Phone 912-868-5259  
Email [jlewis2@mail.dodge.public.lib.ga.us](mailto:jlewis2@mail.dodge.public.lib.ga.us)

3-27-97

MAY 1 1997 April 24, 1997

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

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt:

As a consultant for a regional educational service agency serving ten school systems in the southern part of Georgia, I am very interested in the actions that you take concerning the implementation of the Telecommunications Act. I would like to thank you for your efforts to assure that all school districts and educational consortia have affordable access to the technology needed for our children and other citizens to have the opportunities to promote world class learning. The area I serve can have the educational playing field not only leveled but enriched by your decision to ensure that access is affordable in poor districts that are geographically isolated from large libraries, museums, and other educational tools often taken for granted in many urban areas. For example, today I was in an eighth grade classroom where the teacher had gone to a public library to access the Internet to get information on Hale Bopp to use with her class' study of astronomy. There was no local access for her or her students in the school or at her home. It was only through her extra dedication to her students that the information was available for her class. These students should have the same opportunities as students elsewhere in the United States.

I urge you to provide every school system in the country with discounts for all telecommunication services based upon the criteria of poverty (free or reduced lunch indicators) and isolation (rural). E-rate discounts should be available for inside connections to classrooms, networking of schools and education offices and libraries with each other, and Internet access including installation and maintenance costs. Funding should be administered by an independent fund administrator, not state education departments. Applications should be sent to all school systems and public libraries and should take into consideration that the smaller, poorer school systems do not have "professional" grant writers on staff and that many do not employ a full staff during the summer months. Therefore, applications should take a minimum of effort to complete, and sufficient notice should be given for their completion. Local flexibility for self determination of services needed for the individual school's educational mission should be allowed.

I urge you to support the discount plan for universal services to schools so that all our American students can be more adequately prepared.

Sincerely,



CC 96-45



BOARD OF EDUCATION  
James E. Vondal, President  
Bruce Olsen, Vice President  
James W. Howard, Director  
Gaylon Steier, Director  
Gregory E. Westlund, Director  
Susan Davis, Business Manager

Mark M. Lindahl, H. S. Princ  
Wayne Deneault, Elem. Princ

**Cando Public School** April 25, 1997

The Honorable Reed Hundt  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M. Street, NW Room 832  
Washington, DC 20554

Southern School District No. 8  
418 2nd Avenue  
P.O. Box 489  
Cando, North Dakota 58324-0489  
Lewis A. Getz, Superintendent  
701-968-4416  
Fax: 701-968-4418

*[Handwritten signature]*

MAY 1 1997

Re: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I am a school secretary from the Cando Public School District #8, and I would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all schools will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

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

In Cando, we are in the process of wiring our school for internet access. As you know, this is a big expenditure for a district with 345 students K-12. The possibilities I see for our students with Internet access is endless, but costly, Telecommunication providers should not capitalize on our schools or our children. Our students need deep discounts for telecommunications service this year. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Sincerely

Nicole Miller  
School Secretary  
Cando Public School

CC. 96-45

BOARD OF EDUCATION  
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Mark M. Lindahl, H. S. Principal

Wayne Denault, Elem. Principal

## Cando Public School April 25, 1997

The Honorable Reed Hundt  
 Chairman

Federal Communications Commission  
 1919 M. Street, NW Room 814  
 Washington, DC 20554

Southern School District No. 8  
 418 2nd Avenue  
 P.O. Box 489

Cando, North Dakota 58324-0489  
 Lewis A. Getz, Superintendent  
 701-968-4416  
 Fax: 701-968-4418

MAY 1 1997

Re: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I am a business manager from the Cando Public School District #8, and I would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all schools will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

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

In Cando, we are in the process of wiring our school for internet access. As you know, this is a big expenditure for a district with 345 students K-12. The possibilities I see for our students with Internet access is endless, but costly. Telecommunication providers should not capitalize on our schools or our children. Our students need deep discounts for telecommunications service this year. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Sincerely

Susan Davis  
 Business Manager  
 Cando Public School

"Home of the Cubs"

CC 96-45

1700 Via Casoli  
Monterey, Ca 93940  
April 23, 1997

RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997

Federal Communications Commission

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

Dear Commissioner Chong,

I urge you to support the e-rate draft rules in CC Docket No. 96-95. These rules would give important discounts for telecommunications services to school districts.

As a teacher, I am aware how these discounts will help schools reach their goals of having telecommunications services available to their students.

Your yes vote is important to the schools, to our students, and our future.

Sincerely,

*Maribeth Clark*

Classroom Teacher  
Foothill School  
Monterey, Ca

CC96-45

1700 Via Casoli  
Monterey, Ca 93940  
April 23, 1997

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MAY 1 1997

Federal Communications Commission  
Washington, DC 20554

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

Dear Commissioner Chong,

You are considering e-rate draft rules (CC Docket No.96-95). This proposal will give important discounts for telecommunication services to school districts. I ask your support for these rules.

These discounts will help schools, which have tight budgets to accomplish basic educational tasks, reach their goals of having telecommunications services available to their students.

A YES vote is important to our nation's school children and their future in an increasingly technological world.

Sincerely,



Classroom Teacher  
Foothill School  
Monterey, Ca

CC 96-45

1700 Via Casoli  
Monterey, Ca 93940  
April 23, 1997

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

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MAY 1 1997

Federal Communications Commission  
Washington, DC 20541

Dear Commissioner Chong,

I urge you to support the e-rate draft rules in CC Docket No. 96-95. These rules would give important discounts for telecommunications services to school districts.

As a teacher, I am aware how these discounts will help schools reach their goals of having telecommunications services available to their students.

Your yes vote is important to the schools, to our students, and our future.

Sincerely,



Classroom Teacher  
Foothill School  
Monterey, Ca



# Baldwin-Whitehall School District

Administration Office: 4900 Curry Road • Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15236-1898  
Telephone: (412) 884-6300 • FAX: (412) 885-7802 • TTY: (412) 885-6630

0096-45

**Charles H. Faust**  
*Superintendent of Schools*  
412-885-7810

**Dorothy J. Walsh**  
*Assistant Superintendent*  
412-885-7572

**John W. Frombach**  
*Director of Services*  
412-885-7580

**Thomas E. Richey**  
*Supervisor of Elementary C & I*  
412-885-7582

**Karen J. Williams**  
*Supervisor of Special Education*  
412-885-7583

**William M. Santel**  
*Business Manager / Board Secretary*  
412-885-7575

April 22, 1997

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

MAY 1 1997  
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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.

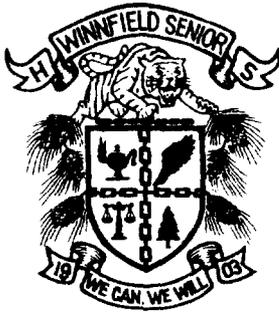
As a school superintendent, I can assure you that the proposed discounts would provide a major thrust to our efforts to integrate technology into the curriculum. We are committed to providing our students with the computer skills that business demand and that our workforce will need to maintain our competitiveness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

Charles H. Faust  
Superintendent of Schools

gb



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# Winnfield Senior High School

BOX 968 PHONE 318-628-3506 WINNFIELD, LOUISIANA 71483

April 21, 1997

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

MAY 1 1997

Federal Communications Commission

Dear Ms. Chong:

I am principal of Winnfield Senior High School in Winn Parish, Louisiana. 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 allow even the poorest schools to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. This proposed budget will address the needs of all schools and provide funding directly to classrooms.

Winnfield Senior High School will use the discounts to access the Internet through our local area network. The Winnfield Senior High School Technology plan and the Winn Parish Technology Plan provide for computers with Internet access in every classroom within the next three years. All of our schools have at least two dial-up accounts.

We need discounts for telecommunications in order to better prepare our students for the workplace of the next century. I would like to encourage the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service to schools and libraries.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jane Griffin  
Principal



**EPITOPE**

April 24, 1997

CC 96-45

Epitope Inc  
8505 SW Creekside Place  
Beaverton, Oregon 97005  
503 641 6115  
Fax 503 643 7796

Michael L. Dunton  
Epitope Incorporated  
8505 S.W. Creekside Place  
Beaverton, Oregon 97005

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

MAY 1 1997  
Federal Communications Commission

Dear Commissioner Chong:

We have learned, through our association in *The Information Technology and Telecommunications Association* (TCA), that the *Federal Communications Commission* (FCC) is considering a proposal to increase the business line Subscriber Line Charge and to impose a new charge, reportedly called a FERRO, of at least \$4.50 per line per month. It is our understanding that these new fees are intended as support for extending new telecommunications capabilities to schools, libraries and rural health care facilities. At the same time that the FCC is considering imposing these new costs on American businesses, we are told that the Commission will not take the long overdue step of bringing rates closer to the true economic cost of local access services.

I urge you not to adopt the foregoing proposals which would, in effect, impose a new tax on American businesses, regardless of whether it is characterized as a "rate rebalancing" or "modification of rate structures". With all due respect, we believe that the imposition of such taxes is the responsibility of the citizen elected representatives, and not appointed officials. Furthermore, nationwide educational and health care initiatives should be considered on a comprehensive basis by all responsible authorities and not just as a telecommunications matter by the FCC.

The time has come for the Commission to reform its rules governing access charges, which are more than \$3 billion a year higher than they should be. All consumers, businesses as well as residential, deserve protection from excessive monopoly prices. The Administration's social policy agenda should be addressed in other ways and not get in the way of these reforms.

Sincerely,

Michael L. Dunton  
Information and Telecommunication Systems Manager

cc: Chairman Reed E. Hundt, Commissioner James H. Quello, Commissioner Susan Ness  
Elizabeth Furse, US Representative  
Gordon Smith, US Senator  
Ron Wyden, US Senator

C 96-45



# Pasadena Unified School District Board of Education

351 SOUTH HUDSON AVENUE, PASADENA, CALIFORNIA 91109  
AREA CODE 818 • TELEPHONE 795-6981

MS. LISA H. FOWLER  
DR. JACQUELINE M. JACOBS  
MR. GEORGE A. PADILLA  
MRS. ANNE PURSEL  
REV. GEORGE VAN ALSTINE

April 22, 1997

MAY 1 1997

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

Dear Ms. Chong:

I am writing as a Member of PUSD's Board of Education. The program the FCC is considering which would start an "E-Rate" Telecommunications Discount Program would go a long way to help PUSD bring much needed skills to its students in this urban setting. It has become clear to me that in order to be sure our students are competitive as adults they must be comfortable with and knowledgeable about the Internet and E mail. It is up to the schools since most of our families do not own computers.

Please support the program with no reduction in size and the proposed regulations. Specifically, we need the inclusion and discounts of internal classroom connections as our budget is inadequate to the task.

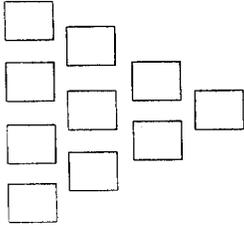
Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Anne W. Pursel, Member  
Board of Education

AWP:eh

6096-45



# **GODWIN** HEIGHTS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

High School • 50 - 35th Street, S.W., Wyoming, Michigan 49548 • (616) 245-0411  
Fax: (616) 245-0200

April 21, 1997

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

RECEIVED  
MAY 1 1997  
Federal Communication Commission

Dear Mrs. Chong:

I am the principal of Godwin Heights High School in Wyoming, Michigan and I would like to thank you for your help in making sure that the students will have access to the Information Super Highway. Your work in keeping this affordable to schools is appreciated.

It is essential that even the poorest schools will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance learning opportunities. The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will help guarantee quality, affordable service for all students as they prepare for tomorrow's work force. The \$2.25 billion a year will help all of our schools in their initiatives but rest assured the vital link in the program is the inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts.

Our district wide plan includes:

- \*The installation of WAN and LAN to bring technology to the classroom where learning takes place.
- \*To bring the Internet to each classroom in the district. We believe this to become incredibly important resource for student learning.
- \*To install a distance learning classroom.

The district fully supports the use of technology, but needs discounts in services to make its plan affordable. We need the discounts for telecommunications services this year. I ask the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Sincerely,

*Michael Matlosz*  
Michael Matlosz  
Principal