

Using this or a similarly constructed table as the index, libraries would self-certify the poverty level within their service area in order to receive the corresponding discount in Column C. For example, if a library system self-certified that within its service area, 15% of its residents were poverty residents, the library system would qualify for a 60% discount. If another library system self-certified that within its service area 7% of its residents were poverty residents, that library would qualify for a 40% discount.

FAX TRANSMISSION

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL



Fort Wayne Community Schools
1200 South Clinton Street
Fort Wayne, IN 46802

DATE: 4/29/97 TOTAL PAGES INCLUDING THIS ONE: 2

TO:

MAY 1 1997

FAX NUMBER: 202/418-2820
NAME: Rachelle B. Chong
FIRM: Federal Communications Commission

FROM:

FAX NUMBER: 425-7740
VOICE NUMBER: 425-7228
NAME: Tim Freeman
DEPARTMENT: Information Systems

MESSAGE:

FAX OPERATOR ONLY

OPERATOR'S NAME: _____

DATE SENT: / /

TIME SENT: _____ A.M. _____ P.M.

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

CC 96-45

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

FCC 10

MAY 1 1997

Federal Communications Commission

April 28, 1997

Reed E. Hundt
Chair
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554-0001

Dear Mr. Chairman:

On behalf of the physician groups listed below, which represent over 300,000 individual physicians from across the country, we are writing to urge you to support the full implementation of the "universal service" provisions of the "Telecommunications Act of 1996." As you know, the universal service provisions of the Act mandate the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to direct telecommunications rate subsidies to, among other groups, "rural health care providers." The law explicitly states that the FCC must make telecommunications rates for eligible health care providers and physicians comparable to telecommunications rates for similar services in both urban and rural areas. We strongly encourage you to immediately implement the so-called Snowe, Rockefeller, Exon, Kerrey provisions of the Act because we believe it to be important to the growth of telemedicine and would allow for greater access to health care services in rural and underserved areas.

The Act specifically mandates that telecommunications carriers provide telecommunications services to health care providers serving patients in rural areas at rates comparable to rates in urban areas. In addition, the FCC's own Advisory Committee on Telecommunications and Health Care has stated that the "discounted rate is critical to the success of rural telemedicine, and the comparable urban rate should eliminate differences in urban and rural rates created by distance." As Congress intended, we believe the definition of "rate" should be construed broadly.

Many dedicated physicians and health care professionals provide essential medical services in small private offices, often in remote and isolated areas across the country. In order to be able to continue to provide quality health care services, individuals practicing in rural areas must often pay excessively high long-distance charges just to be able to access Internet and other telecommunications services. The ability to access these and many other services at affordable rate would allow physicians and health care providers to deliver the best health services possible.

TIM FREEMAN
10261 Auburn Road
Fort Wayne, IN 46825

April 29, 1997

MAY 1 1997

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

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Chong:

I am an employee of the Fort Wayne Community Schools district. Since my work with the district involves information systems, I have an awareness of the importance of the "E-Rate" Telecommunications Discount Program in relation to affordable communications services to school districts wanting to provide internet and distance learning services to students. To adequately prepare students to survive in America's ever-expanding "technology" society, it is essential that students have access to this technology in the classroom.

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

Sincerely,



Tim Freeman

2

We urge you to support the "universal access" provisions of the Act because we believe that these provisions are fair and would improve the quality of health services in many needed areas of the United States.

Sincerely,

American College of Radiology

American Medical Association

cc: James H. Quello, Rachelle B. Chong, Susan Ness, Regina M. Keeney

FAX COVER SHEET

American Medical Association
Physicians dedicated to the health of America



AMA Division of Legislative Counsel
1101 Vermont Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20005
Reply Fax Number (202) 789-7401

Date: 4-28-97

To: *Rachelle B. Chong*

From: Curtis Rooney

Division of Legislative Counsel

Phone number: (202) 789-7423

Message:

Immaculate Conception School
1016 Laney - Walker Blvd.
Augusta, GA 30901

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

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

MAY 7 1997

RE: Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Chong:

I am the Computer Teacher from the Immaculate Conception School, Diocese of Savannah, 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 into the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital to this process. This plan is also essential in preparing our students for Workforce 2000.

It is the belief of the general population that students attending Catholic schools receive the best of everything. It is true that the quality of a Catholic education is remarkable, yet many of our schools, including this one, are unable to afford to keep up with the recent trends in technology. The discounts would enable us to completely fulfill our educational goals by providing impoverished students with the same opportunities as more affluent public and private schools through exposure to the Internet and other long-distance learning.

Our immediate technological goal at Immaculate Conception is to provide the

Computer Lab, the library, and each classroom with at least one Internet accessible computer. Our research shows that local Internet Providers are willing to install the necessary programs at no charge, and provide monthly service at a nominal fee, but we do not have a single computer with a modem or enough memory to provide us with Internet access. We also are unable to install telephone lines to the classrooms due to a lack of funding. Our ultimate goal is to network our Computer Lab to the individual classrooms, giving teachers and students complete access to educational software available in the lab.

Evidently, our students need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. The parents, faculty, administration, and friends of Immaculate Conception urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal services to schools. Enclosed is a copy of the petition signed by the members of the Immaculate Conception community, demonstrating our support for the passage of the Telecommunications Act of 1996.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Vanessa W. Walters". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Vanessa W. Walters

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED



"Preparing today's students to
succeed in tomorrow's world."

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

April 9, 1997

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

MAY 1 1997

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Chong,

As superintendent of Saddleback Valley Unified School District, I would like to thank you for your efforts 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 our schools, and importantly, the plan will bring services directly to the classroom. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital. This plan is essential for preparing the workforce of tomorrow.

We would like to request that public education receive free Internet access to all classrooms. California schools are below the national average in per pupil funding and seventy five percent of all school districts in the United States have greater financial resources than the schools in California.

Saddleback Valley Unified School District consists of 35 schools, 1700 classrooms, and over 32,000 students. We have recently made a commitment to provide six Internet connections in all classrooms by September 1, 1997. All 35 schools currently have three or more Internet connections in a centralized location. Most schools do not yet have Internet connections in each classroom.

In order for systemic change to occur in public education, it is absolutely necessary that telecommunications functions, such as access to the Internet via high speed cable fiber optics connections, be provided to every classroom throughout the nation for no charge, regardless of the

**SADDLEBACK VALLEY
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

25631 DISEÑO DRIVE
MISSION VIEJO, CALIFORNIA 92691
(714) 586-1234

SUPERINTENDENT
Dr. Peter A. Hartman

BOARD OF EDUCATION
Bobbee Cline, President
Dore J. Gilbert, M.D., Vice Pres.
Marcia L. Birch, Clerk
Debbie Hughes, Member
Don Sedgwick, Member

number of computers being connected. Schools should not incur any monthly fees for Internet access. Even if our local cable provider offered discounts on providing cable modems for each of our computers in our classrooms, we would not be able to afford the monthly or annual cost of these connections.

Based on current cable modem monthly costs, the annual cost to use the Internet via cable modems in all 1700 rooms with six computers per room would be \$5 million without a discount. This number is based on the local cable company's current monthly charge of \$44 per connection per month. This fee amounts to approximately \$500 per year to connect one computer to the Internet on a high speed line. Even if Saddleback qualified for a 40% reduction in fees, the annual cost would still be in excess of \$3 million per year which we definitely could not afford.

I strongly encourage your Commission to follow the lead of the National Cable Television Association (NCTA) which has recently announced in their new initiative, "Cable's High Speed Education Connection", that they will provide free Internet access through cable modems to all schools. The long term goal is to link all computers in all classrooms to all appropriate areas served by cable television networks to the Internet for no on-going charge. Accessibility to all appropriate educational information on demand in every classroom is a priority if public education is to bridge the gap to the 21st century.

Sincerely,



Peter A. Hartman
Superintendent

gp



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. BRADFIELD, Ed.S., Executive Director

April 24, 1997

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

RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Chong:

I am Executive Director for the Heart of Georgia Regional Educational Service Agency (RESA) which includes the following counties in Georgia: Bleckley, Dodge, Laurens, Montgomery, Pulaski, Telfair, Treutlen, Wheeler, and Wilcox. I would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all school districts and education consortia will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway. We desperately need it.

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

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

Thank you.

Sincerely,

June D. Bradfield

JDB:sc

Enclosure



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 9, 1997

Mr. Timothy S. Hopkins
Director, Utility Finance
Public Service Commission
244 Washington Street S.W.
Atlanta, GA 30334-5701

Dear Mr. Hopkins and Public Service Commissioners:

Ever since hearing in December of 1996 about the Telecommunications Act of 1996 and its implications for schools and libraries, we at the Heart of Georgia Regional Educational Service Agency have been excited about its implications for our school systems in south Georgia. With a unanimous vote, the Heart of Georgia RESA Board of Control composed of the ten school system superintendents and five lay persons gave me as director the directive to pursue this matter as the official representative of a consortium comprised of all ten school systems. Therefore, I appreciate the opportunity to give comments.

Our RESA area would most certainly be qualified to be recipients of discounts that are based on the criteria of student eligibility for free or reduced price lunches and a rural geographic location. The Telecommunications Act can play an instrumental role in leveling the playing field when the inequalities of educational opportunities are addressed. Although many schools in Georgia have ready access for all or the majority of their students, it is the rule for our systems to have no access for anyone. A few of the systems have access for one station in the media center.

Below is the response to your questionnaire.

List all telecommunications services currently being received and the tariff if you know the title (include the name of the provider).

Internet access is available in Dodge, Telfair, Bleckley, Pulaski, and Wilcox counties through a grant through the Ocmulgee Regional Library. Other systems have no access without long distance charges. One system has access through a private company. Access is usually limited to the media center in the schools. With so many wishing to use the service, however, the free line is most often busy and thus inaccessible. MCI recently

offered a pay line that is available in some areas. RESA employees, for instance, pay personally for this expense; however, not all of our employees live in areas where there is access without paying a long distance fee. Ocmulgee Regional Library has been most helpful in providing services in our area.

List any telecommunications services for which you are currently receiving a discount and the provider rendering that service.

The state of Georgia has provided GSAMS equipment installation and first year operational fees for Bleckley, Dodge, Dublin, Laurens, Montgomery, Pulaski, Telfair, Treutlen, Wheeler, and Wilcox school systems. Costs after the first year run \$1200 per month per site. Our systems often cannot afford this expense and have let their GSAMS system lie idle even though their students could benefit from the opportunities available through distance learning. Low student numbers for advanced classes and the lack of experiential activities created by a rural environment create a need for this type of technology.

List any services you recommend for discount (include a brief description of the service).

GSAMS--This two-way interactive technology for distance learning would provide educational experiences for students in our service area as well as make staff development for teachers and administrators accessible without necessitating travel expenditures of time and money. Installation equipment has been provided by the state; however, the yearly operation fees are extremely high.

Internet access--our rural students are just as deserving of having the information age accessible at the tip of their fingers as their urban counterparts. When the Georgia School Superintendents' list is pulled up on the Internet, only two of our superintendents have an e-mail address. Although education is big business, the administrators down to the students being trained to be tomorrow's leaders are all at a turn-of-the-twentieth-century status instead of being visionaries for the twenty-first century.

Fiber optics solutions are needed for networking class to class, class to media center, class to school office, school office to central office, all to the local library, all to the regional educational service agency. Computers have been purchased through lottery proceeds, yet there is little if any connectivity. No school in our service area has fiber optic connections to the work stations. There are scattered 10-base t solutions and several thin Ethernet solutions.

We would also like to have accessible any other technology that would give our students the opportunities available throughout the United States to make them productive world class citizens.

Provide the expected volumes and frequency of both any discounted services and/or any recommended discounted services from above.

Untapped are 23,000 students in 48 schools of 10 school systems. This wealth of potential is just the tip of the iceberg. For as students become successful users of the technology available on today's market, their productivity will influence their parents and families to also become consumers of technological services. The market potential for service providers to recoup their expenses has yet to be tapped. The "perceived necessity" for the public to have access is just beginning to emerge.

State your current local service provider for telecommunications services.

The providers in our area include Alltel, Bell South, Glenwood Telephone, ComSouth, and Plant Telephone.

State your current provider for toll services.

ATT, MCI, Sprint, CTI, Alltel, Glenwood Telephone--all are available with equal access.

State your provider for any other telecommunications services currently being received.

ATT, Bradmark, CTI, MCI, or any other company that is requested.

Any other comments or issues you care to raise on this subject.

We are also concerned about the interstate as well as the intrastate aspects of this program. We in rural south Georgia do not have access to the larger providers that serve interstate. Neither do we receive the cooperation or financial aid that is provided by these larger service providers. For example, Alltel told one of our systems to "take what they (Alltel) already had or nothing" and refused to work with them on a grant. Yet note the extensive discounts and other services provided by Pacific Bell in California. (See attached e-mail from Oscar Perry.)

RESA has a responsibility to provide technological training for the staff of our school systems; however, this is an impossibility when there is not adequate access for training purposes, and even if there were, there is usually no place in the local school setting to enable the training to be utilized to its fullest.

Any input you would like to make relative to procedures for the implementation of making application or for the provision of these discounts.

All that we have been able to discover about the procedures indicate that the awarding of funds will be on a first-come first-serve basis. It behooves the Georgia Public Service Commission to have the way open for all those students in Georgia, no matter where they

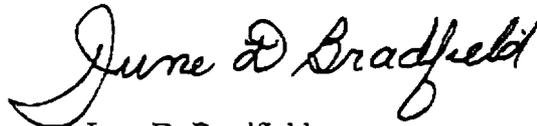
live or their economic status, to have equal educational opportunities with the rest of the nation. Although the concerns of the Public Service Commission are many, this matter needs to take top priority so that applications from Georgia can be submitted as early as those from any other state.

The guidelines need to be written in terms that are understandable by lay persons, since those systems making applications are the ones most deserving of the funding yet the most lacking in technical knowledge and expertise. They often do not know what they need to ask for.

As soon as guidelines become available, they should be sent to every school system, regional educational service agency, and library in the state. Since the FCC decision is scheduled for May 8 with funding to commence in September, immediate notification is necessary. Again small rural school systems are at a disadvantage since most have few twelve-month employees to work on this project from June through mid-August.

Again, we appreciate the opportunity to give comments. We will continue to carry out the directive from our board of control to stay aware of the status of this program and to make application at the earliest possible date.

Sincerely,



June D. Bradfield
Executive Director

CC: 96-45

FAX TRANSMISSION

ORANGEBURG DISTRICT 5, STAFF DEVELOPMENT

578 ELLIS AVENUE
ORANGEBURG, SC 29115
803-533-7943
FAX: 803-516-6010

RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997

To: The Honorable Reed Hundt,
Chairman

Date: April 25, 1997

Fax #: (202) 418-2801

Pages: 2, including this cover sheet.

From: Walter Tobin

Subject: CC Docket No. 96-45

COMMENTS:

Please see attached letter.



Administrative Offices

April 24, 1997

REED
MAY 1 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:

As the superintendent of Orangeburg Consolidated School District Five, 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.

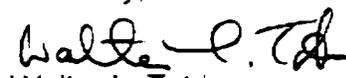
The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board decision will guarantee that all school districts will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and will provide distance-learning opportunities at a discounted rate. The school portion, \$ 2.25 billion a year, will ensure that the needs of our students, and schools are met.

Our district is currently one of the eight pilot sites funded through the South Carolina Two-Way Video Distance Learning Project. This plan would reduce the cost of continuing this initiative and would also enable us to expand these services and opportunities through the savings projected.

This plan will enable us to bring those services directly to the classroom and to our students. Those discounts on inside connections, Internet access, installation and maintenance are essential as we plan for the upcoming fiscal budget. Your recommendation is an important part of this process.

Our school district needs these discounts for telecommunications services this year. I ask the FCC to support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service.

Sincerely,


Walter L. Tobin
Superintendent

CC: 96-45 P. 1

MORGAN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

1065 East Avenue - Madison, Georgia 30650

Phone 706-342-0752

Fax 706-342-0505

MEMBERS OF BOARD
Ronnie Slapp, *Chairman*
Mark Argo
Mrs. Dorothy Cabaniss
Clifton Hanes
Mrs. Marie B. Martin

Patricia W. Stokes,
Superintendent

Stanley W. DeJama,
Curriculum & Instruction

FILED

MAY 1 1997

FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL

TO: HON. REED HUNDT, CHAIRMAN

COMPANY: FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

FAX NO.: 202/418-2801

FROM: DR. PATRICIA W. STOKES, SUPERINTENDANT

COMPANY: MORGAN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

FAX NO.: (706) 342-0505

TOTAL NUMBER OF PAGES INCLUDING THIS SHEET: 2

COMMENTS: _____

If all pages are not received, please call (706) 342-0752.

MORGAN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE**

1065 East Avenue - Madison, Georgia 30650

Phone 706-342-0752

Fax 706-342-0505

MEMBERS OF BOARD
Ronnie Stapp, *Chairman*
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Patricia W. Stokes, Ph.D.
Superintendent

Stanley W. DeJarnett, Ph.D.
*Director,
Curriculum & Instruction*

MAY 1 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:

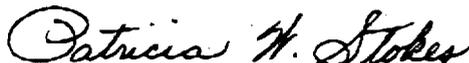
As superintendent of the Morgan County Schools in Madison, Georgia, I am sincerely appreciative of your efforts to see that school districts and educational groups in our country can afford access to the Internet. We are considered leaders in the use of technology in the state of Georgia, and because of our rural location, this is an urgent issue. We do not have wide area access without long distance charges, and that can make use prohibitive.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Board decision would make it possible for all school districts to have an opportunity to connect our students in the classroom to the Internet. The educational opportunities of such a move are astounding. This move is essential to bring our schools to the high level of expectations placed on them by the public in a technology-laden work world.

We are in the process of installing a wide-area network among all our schools and the local library. These discounts would make educational use of the Internet available directly to our classrooms and to the general public who use our library in an affordable manner.

Without serious discounts, we will have to limit use of this incredible resource. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Patricia W. Stokes
Superintendent



Dr. Samuel Mudd Elementary School

CC 96-45



820 Stone Avenue
Waldorf, Md. 20602
Dr. Colleen Seremet, Principal

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

FAX COVER SHEET

DATE:

April 25

TO: Reed Hundt

FAX NUMBER:

202 418-2801

FROM: J Evans

FAX NUMBER:

301 374-9581

Number of Pages Including Cover Sheet: 2

Message:



Doing What's Best For Children



Phone (301) 645-3686
Fax (301) 374-9581

WORLD WIDE WEB

April 22, 1997

RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997

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

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt:

WE are faculty and staff from Dr. Mudd Elementary in Maryland. We are 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,

Sue Jochert
Susan Corlock
Janice M. Evans
Linda G. Chinsky
Marie T. Werking
Jennifer
Carol Beck
Elizabeth Wick
Donna M. ...

Janet M. Lutz

CC. 96-45



REC-11
MAY 1 1997

400 Pearman Dairy Road
Post Office Drawer 439
Anderson, South Carolina 29622
(803) 260-5000

An Equal Opportunity Employer

April 24, 1997

Post-it* Fax Note	7671	Date	4/24	# of pages	2
To	Hon Reed Hundt	From	Karen Woodward		
Co./Dept.	FCC	Co.	Anderson School Dist 5		
Phone #		Phone #	864-260-5042		
Fax #	202-418-2801	Fax #	864-260-5896		

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

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I am the superintendent of Anderson School District Five, 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.

Anderson School District Five is currently in the process of developing networking access for up to seven computers into all classrooms in our school district, which will be completed during the summer of 1997. During the 1997-98 school year, we hope to get at least three computers into each of our elementary classrooms (approximately 260 classrooms). Since we also have a wide area network (WAN) that these computers will have access to, we will need to add more bandwidth so that our students will have access to the Internet and distance-learning opportunities as the computers into the classrooms are brought online.

Anderson School District Five would be able to take these funds and use them to add additional telecommunication services to our existing system by:

1. The leasing of more T1 facilities to give needed bandwidth and speed to the classroom in each of our 15 schools over our wide area network (WAN).
2. The purchase of the necessary routing equipment for those new services to connect those additional T1 facilities to our WAN.

The Honorable Reed Hundt

April 24, 1997

Page 2

3. With the additional bandwidth, we would be able to purchase distance-learning equipment that would allow our students to be involved with educational opportunities in other areas of the United States and around the world.
4. Higher recurring costs for these needed telecommunications facilities would directly affect (negatively) our ability to expand the system that we already have.

Additionally, monies saved through discounts could provide much needed resources to support other academic needs. School districts need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. Available resources for school districts are limited, compared to the need. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Karen C. Woodward, Ed. D.
Superintendent

chc

