



December 3, 2014

The Honorable Tom Wheeler  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

I am writing on behalf of the 28 national and international companies and leading education organizations comprising the [Partnership for 21st Century Skills](#) (P21) to express strong support for your proposal to increase the E-rate's annual cap by \$1.5 billion. We commend you for recognizing that the telecommunications and data networks connecting our schools are of paramount importance to promoting improved teaching and learning, and for ensuring the nation's long-term, global economic leadership.

Ubiquitous high capacity broadband networks are critical to national efforts to equip all students with deep content knowledge, and the creativity, communication, collaboration and critical thinking skills required for postsecondary success. Unfortunately, far too many students graduate without these skills and find themselves unprepared for the rigors of higher education and the workplace. Cutting edge education technologies - powered by high capacity broadband services - will help improve student outcomes, by supporting tailored instruction, enabling access to powerful, interactive digital resources, supporting more valid and reliable online assessments, and empowering student directed learning.

Your plan represents a long overdue investment in our schools' technology infrastructure. Schools will not be able to help students acquire the skills they need, unless we equip all learning spaces with the technology and broadband access needed to fundamentally transform teaching and learning. Thank you for championing this important effort.

Sincerely,

Dr. Helen Soulé  
Executive Director  
Partnership for 21st Century Skills