

Dear FCC...

On behalf of the following school districts, representing 150,000 students, we are requesting the FCC modify the eligible services list for E-Rate funding.

"Telephone Broadcast Messaging" should be added to the list of eligible services.

The E-Rate program is designed to promote and improve school to parent communications using telephony services.

Many companies offer a service (either from telecommunications providers or internet access vendors) that can call hundreds or thousands of families in moments and play a pre-recorded message from school administrators to inform parents of weather delays or closings, or child safety issues such as a lock-down or civil emergency.

This service is also used to send reminders about activities and events such as upcoming proficiency tests or parent/teacher conferences. Academic scores are improved by increasing parental awareness and involvement through these calls.

This type of service is used by thousands of schools to automatically call parents to report absences, helping improve attendance and reduce truancy.

These services use telecommunications lines funded by Universal Access Rate fees.

For emergencies, this form of instant communications is essential. These services typically dial thousands of numbers in minutes.

For scheduled communications, this service can save time and reduce costs by allowing the school to communicate instantly with parents rather than rely on paper memos. Paper memos may never reach parents, and reduce class time for their distribution.

Broadcast calls are also designed to reach parents at home, via cell phone, and at work. If parents are living apart, the message is sent to both Mom and Dad; which is especially important to preserve family responsibility for children living in shared parenting situations.

The service is available from telecommunications or other providers usually as an add-on to Voice Mail service.

The broadcast service typically costs less than 5 cents per call; competitive with POTS service, but

without requiring labor and staff at the school to manually dial the phones.

The following districts are just a few that would implement this service if assistance was available through E-Rate discounts.

Felicity-Franklin School District--Ohio 1,300 students
Barren Co. School Dist.-KY 5,500 students
Grant Co School District- KY 6,800 students
Mahoning Co. JVS- OH 650 students
Dodge City Unif. School Dist.- KS. 8,675 students
Dayton Public Schools, Dayton, OH 24,000 students
Bowling Green School Dist. -KY 1,650 students
Oldham Co. School Dist.-KY 17,500 students
Piqua City Schools-OH 4,300 students
Troy City Schools, Troy OH 4,800 students
Covington City Schools, Covington OH 850 students
Nelson Co. School Dist.-KY 6,500 students
Anthony Wayne School Dist.-OH 6,200 students
Agnon School- OH 280 students

We believe that the intent of Congress for both the E-Rate program and No Child Left Behind are intertwined and complimentary. Specifically, to improve parent-school communications for better student performance.

Adding "Telephone Broadcast Messaging" to the list of eligible services meets the intent and desires of Congress, and better serves schools, parents and our children.

Looking forward,

Leib

Leib Lurie,
Telecommunications consultant
623 S. Clay St.
Troy, OH 45373 USA
937-875-0385
Fax: 937-335-3887
623 South Clay St.
Troy, Ohio 45373 USA

