

I strongly encourage the FCC to keep web hosting services as a Priority 1 eligible service under the Internet Access category of E-rate.

School and district web presence, following the lead of other aspects of our society, is a critical and essential means for the delivery and accomplishment of educational goals for schools. Web hosting enables the ability to engage all of the stakeholders that impact student learning and success. Web hosting enables access, not only to standard communication and instruction based in our local schools, but also to a whole range of services otherwise limited by time and geography. With web hosting and access we overcome those limits. Last year alone, we had almost 900,000 hits on our website! This is where parents go to communicate.

We are making real progress in moving our schools toward 21st Century education. Removing web hosting as an eligible Priority 1 service will serve to block and delay that progress just when we are nearing a tipping point in understanding and application of web technologies in our schools.

Web hosting services effectively remove many barriers to education caused by language, time, location, expense, lack of communication and lack of student engagement. We depend on the Priority 1 funding for web hosting to support our efforts to overcome these barriers. We have found that widespread, real-time communication with our community has many overwhelmingly positive benefits, particularly in engaging both students and parents in the educational process, and is essential to our educational mission.

I urge you to maintain the current priority for web hosting services so we in turn can continue providing valuable online resources to our students, parents, and community.

Sincerely,

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