

PASS

Parents Allies for Student Success

451 South George Mason Drive, Suite 203
Arlington, VA 22204
Phone: (703) 979-3200

Chairman Julius Genachowski
Commissioner Meredith Attwell Baker
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn
Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Commissioner Robert M. McDowell

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: GN Docket No. 09-191

January 8, 2010

Dear Chairman Genachowski and Commissioners:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Commission's Open Internet Notice of Proposed Rulemaking. Parents Allies for Student Success (PASS) is a nonprofit organization that aims to develop curriculum, recruit allies and teach them how to teach parents the art of advocating for student success. It has long been recognized that parent involvement positively impacts children's performance in school. So it is our goal to equip parents with the skills and tools necessary for their children's academic success.

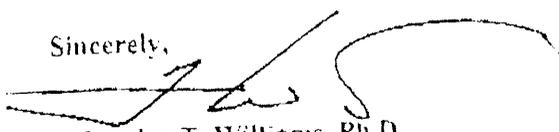
It is obvious to us that a student's learning is not finished once he or she leaves school at the end of the day. As students complete their homework and conduct research at their homes, they need resources to help them. While most students have access to the Internet and computers at school, not all of them enjoy the same connectivity at home. At a Commission meeting in September, it was stated that four out of five parents say the Internet helps their children with their schoolwork. But what about the students who do not have the opportunity to access online resources? Through the National Broadband Plan, the FCC has an opportunity to correct disparities in home broadband adoption before more students are affected by the digital divide.

According to Connected Nation, only one-third of low-income families with children have a home broadband connection. In an increasingly information-based society, this is unacceptable, especially when home Internet connections have a bearing on future academic success, like college enrollment.

We are apprehensive about the effect that the NPRM's net neutrality regulations could have on those who are unserved and underserved by broadband technology. We hope that the FCC will continue to work towards universal broadband deployment and adoption, rather than enacting policies that could delay this objective.

The Commission's top priority at this time should be to ensure that every student gains access to broadband technology. Our nation's future competitiveness and success are contingent on this vital effort.

Sincerely,



Talmadge T. Williams, Ph.D.
President