

RE: Comments on FCC Public Notice DA10-1045
CC Docket No. 02-6
GN Docket No. 09-51

Phillipsburg ISD #325 is a rural school district and serves over 650 students in central Kansas.

The E-rate program has provided critical assistance to K-12 schools in our service area. During the difficult economic times in the state of Kansas where school funding has been cut numerous times in the last year, E-rate funds have become even more important to us. Kansas districts have utilized E-rate funding to assist in their endeavors to provide quality education to Kansas students.

We supplement our web hosting expenses with E-rate funding. Students and their parents expect our district to provide them with timely information, and more than ever before, this information is disseminated via the internet. Parents, students, teachers and district staff rely on having access to school information around the clock to keep informed about important issues, weather-related cancellations, and emergency notifications.

As a result of recent reductions in state funding, Kansas school districts are reducing staff to balance our budgets. With fewer staff members to answer phones, send written messages, and publish newsletters, it is even more important for our schools to have the ability to get vast amounts of information to large numbers of people quickly and easily. This is accomplished through our district web site. Eliminating E-rate funding for web hosting will only further hinder financially struggling districts, including ours, and our overworked staff.

Research has shown that high student achievement requires strong parental involvement, and access to up-to-date information fosters active parents and community members.

The FCC's efforts to provide resources to districts so all students have access to important educational opportunities is commendable. **I request that you consider the effects of this proposed change and retain web hosting as a Priority 1 funded service.** Web hosting service is not an extravagance. In the 21st Century when many people are turning to the web as their first source of information, it is a necessity.

Sincerely,

Michael E. Gower

Superintendent USD #325