



STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Mick Zais
Superintendent

1429 Senate Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

May 31, 2011

Federal Communications Commission
Chairman Julius Genachowski
445 12th Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: WT Docket No. 11-65

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

My mission as State Superintendent is for every one of our students, from their first day of school, to be prepared to graduate from high school and to maximize their success in the workforce, the military or higher education. To meet the needs of students in today's classrooms, they need access to technology and information. That is why I support the proposed merger of AT&T and T-Mobile because increased wireless and broadband coverage benefits all schools, particularly rural schools, and the communities they serve.

Technology is opening up opportunities to tailor learning strategies to individual learning styles. Tools such as interactive whiteboards turn the computer and a data projector into a powerful teaching tool, and when paired with an effective teacher, enhances classroom learning that is only limited by the imagination of teachers and students. Furthermore, if all students were able to access course material from home using a mobile computing device and high speed Internet, it would likely reduce the "digital divide" that exists in South Carolina.

However, with current broadband use approaching capacity, additional broadband capacity is needed to keep pace with technology demands. South Carolina's schools must have more computing devices per class, wireless Internet access, and additional broadband if we are to transform public education to meet the needs of students, increase student achievement, and realize cost savings through the use of technology.

We face many challenges in education, but we can and we will overcome them. Increasing the use of technology in the classroom is a critical component of our plan. It can only be accomplished if the government allows the marketplace to innovate. I support the proposed merger of AT&T and T-Mobile and encourage you to give it full consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mick Zais".

Mick Zais
State Superintendent of Education

CC:

Commissioner Michael Copps
Commissioner Robert McDowell
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn
Commissioner Meredith Attwell Baker

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