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We urge the Obama Administration, U.S. Congress, and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to accomplish the goals of ConnectEd to ensure that all of our nation's classrooms have high-speed broadband connectivity and all educators have the professional learning and access to digital resources they need for students to compete in the global 21st century economy.

Today's classroom is rapidly changing as schools incorporate digital tools and online assessments to create a more interactive and personalized learning environment. However, this vision cannot be fully accomplished without access to high-speed broadband connectivity, high-quality professional learning and digital resources. We applaud President Obama for introducing the ConnectEd Initiative, which will:

- Connect 99% of students to high-speed broadband within the next five years through an increased investment in the critical E-Rate program,
- Provide the professional learning that teachers and administrators need to integrate digital learning into the classroom and
- Work with the private sector to enable schools to take advantage of digital resources and devices.

The linchpin in the ConnectEd Initiative is an increased investment in the E-Rate program. Nearly 80% of schools indicate that their current internet connection does not meet their needs. Demand for E-Rate funding is nearly double the amount of available funds. Investing in E-Rate is crucial to ensure that students and teachers across the country have access to the high-speed connectivity necessary to facilitate the effective use of high-quality learning technologies in the classroom.

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