



# TENNESSEE E-RATE CONSORTIUM

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August 27, 2013

# TN E-Rate Consortium

- Consortium Purchasing groups are based on State and/or local laws
- Tennessee has had purchasing consortium since the beginning of the E-Rate program
- The Tennessee Decision of the FCC dealing with on-premise equipment as a Priority I service recognized the sovereignty/requirement of state and local procurement laws.
- Metro-Nashville Public Schools (MNPS) established a consortium for Priority I services for 2011-12 program year
- Greenville City Schools with the assistance of MNPS established a consortium for on premise Priority I services for the 2007-08 program year.

# TN E-Rate Consortium

## TN Consortium Success Story

- The current Tennessee E-Rate Consortium has 120 of the 139 LEAs as members, including the 6 largest LEAs in the state representing more than 750,000 students
- Under the current E-Rate Consortium:
  - 99% of members have 100mb end site connection, regardless of location in the state
  - Greater than 20% of the end site connections are 1gb at the end site
  - Internet Access capacity per LEA continues to grow and the growth is based on utilization
  - Current vendor uses 40 different connectivity providers to serve consortia customers

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## Consortium & NPRM –

- Consortia are a procurement vehicle not a management structure
- PIA should address all procurement/contract matters with consortium lead as the contract is about to take effect.
- Once the procurement has been reviewed with consortium lead, PIA should not repeat this process each year of contract, and certainly not with each consortia member.
- E-Rate focus should shift from funding police to advocate for advanced service goals.

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## NPRM –

- Makes services to schools exempt from USF and related fees – no net funding for schools – eats up cap for needed services
- Local control should be allowed/expanded – locals know best what they need and have local electorate to oversee their spending.
- Average bandwidth in 1998 was 128K, in 2013 it is at least 10mb, a 7,700% increase bandwidth based on local control and utilization decisions.
- Even though there has been incredible efficiency in local control there is a great need for increase funding.
- Contracts – If not canceled, should be considered valid for E-Rate Funding based on state & local procurement.

# TN E-Rate Consortium

Waiver request before FCC-

In Commissioner's Pai July 16, 2013 speech he stated:

- “The process of appealing those (USAC funding) decision can take over a decade.. if you have the stomach for it..
- “Clearing out the decade's worth of backlogged appeals and eliminating the red tape funding gap, two vestiges of the current system should be the next step. That would free up additional billions of dollars for schools, without collect an extra dime.”
- A waiver for the 2012-13 funding year is before the FCC for 43 consortium members that would allow the flow \$17 Million. This waiver has to do with allowing additional school districts to join a consortium after the first year to gain access to consortium pricing.



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