

I write to provide comments to the FCC on the E-Rate NPRM, proceeding 13-184. The E-Rate has been of great importance Sylacauga City Schools because it has helped our students and teachers gain access to a wealth of online resources, to communicate and collaborate, and to develop the 21st century skills necessary for college and career. However, E-Rate funding levels have not kept pace with our district's bandwidth needs. I urge you to consider raising the E-rate funding level to at least \$5 billion per year, which is close to the average demand level for each of the past two years.

As a Superintendent, I know that seamlessly infusing digital learning throughout the school curriculum is a prerequisite for students to graduate from high school with the skills and knowledge they need to succeed in today's global economy. Access to high speed broadband is the key for modern teaching and learning to occur in all schools across the country.

In Sylacauga City Schools, we use digital learning to personalize learning, provide online classes, meet common core state standards, administer online assessments, and make data driven decisions. An example of digital learning in our district is the use of formative assessments to develop data that supports our Response to Intervention program.

Sylacauga City Schools' network is currently just keeping up with demand, and the need for a high speed reliable network is only going to increase in the near future. We are considering funding a 1-1 tablet initiative in the next 2 years and the expanding network will be needed to support this instructional program.

The E-rate program has been a phenomenal success in bringing Internet access to almost every classroom in America. In the last funding cycle applications from schools and libraries totaled more than \$5 billion, more than double the available funding. I respectfully urge the FCC to increase funding for the E-Rate program to at least \$5 billion to meet this demand. All students need access to high speed broadband. Our nation's future depends on their success.