



Marysville
School District

Information Systems and Applied Technology

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Ann Reed, Director

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September 11, 2013

Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Modernizing the E-Rate Program for Schools and Libraries, WC Docket 13-184

Dear Ms. Dortch,

I am writing to you today from Marysville, Washington, a blue collar town that provides a workforce for Boeing and small businesses in the upper Puget Sound region of western Washington. The Marysville School District is in the midst of reinventing our educational program to support Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) concepts for our students interested in the high technical and aerospace careers in our area. The district has increased our graduation rate to 77%, up from 53% only 5 years ago, due to our efforts.

One of our challenges to support this reinvention is the need for technology enhancements that we could not afford on our own. The Marysville School District's free and reduced lunch rate has increased over the last few years from 32% to 48%. We have increasingly relied on E-Rate funding for our communication needs. We invested in a fiber network to connect our 22 schools and greatly appreciate the reimbursement for these services, but we will not be able to maintain the increased level of demand for network connections and speed.

This letter offers comments related to the FCC's effort to modernize the E-rate program. We believe universal access to broadband is necessary to prepare all students for college and 21st century careers. We also desire a modernized E-rate program that is less burdensome for schools, and aligned more effectively to current and future K-12 education priorities. In addition, the amount of money available for schools must increase to meet state and local needs. It is time to modernize the E-rate program and support positive change that benefits K-12 schools. We encourage you to move quickly as you complete your deliberations.

If you have any further questions about our district, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ann Case Reed".

Ann Case Reed,
Director of Information Systems and Applied Technology