

CLAY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

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Superintendent

Central High School of Clay County
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I write to provide comments to the FCC on the E-Rate NPRM, proceeding 13-184. The E-Rate has been of great importance to the Clay County School System because it has helped our students and teachers gain access to a wealth of online resources, to communicate and collaborate, and to develop 21st century skills necessary for college and career. However, E-Rate funding levels have not kept pace with our school system'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 in Alabama, I know that seamlessly infusing digital learning throughout the school curriculum is a pre-requisite 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 the Clay County School System we use digital learning to provide online classes, meet common core state standards and administer online assessments. Example of digital learning in Clay County are:

- Access Classes offered to students at Central High School
- Virtual Field Trips
- Online professional development
- Career Tech pilot site for the Microsoft IT Academy
- Online assessments in elementary school using Classworks and Renaissance Learning.

The Clay County School System 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.

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.