

As a School Library Media Specialist, I have submitted Erate applications since the beginning because as a rural school district, without Erate, we would not have Internet access. The cost to rural schools is appreciable more than school districts in urban areas and cities. In order to prepare our students with 21st century job skills, infuse digital learning throughout our curriculum and prepare our students for their future, access to high-speed broadband service is essential to teaching and learning. To embed technology into the curriculum to meet Common Core State Standards, our students need Internet access and the cost keeps rising. Our students' futures depend on the continuation and success of Erate to fund Internet access, especially during these difficult economic times when our schools have to cut so many things to survive.