AQUINAS ACADEMY
*A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust*
340 North Main Street †Greensburg, PA 15601

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To Whom It May Concern:

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 my school 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 my school's future 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 an Educational Leader in Pennsylvania, 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 my school, we use digital learning to enhance our school curriculum, provide online professional development for teachers, administer formal and informal assessments of students' abilities, and make decision based on the data generated by our technologies. An example of digital learning in my school is in the use of our iPads that are used to present material to the students in ways they have never witnessed previously in their learning. However, if we were to have more technology devices, we can offer more of these learning opportunities to a larger number of students in the various grade levels.

My school 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.

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