

I am writing to provide comments to the FCC on the E-Rate NPRM, proceeding 13-184. E-Rate has been very important to Cincinnati area schools because it has helped our students and teachers gain access to a wealth of online resources, communicate and collaborate, and develop the 21st century skills necessary for college and career. However, E-Rate funding levels have not kept pace with the majority of the area's current and even future bandwidth needs. I urge you to raise 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 consultant in Ohio, I know that seamlessly infusing digital learning throughout the 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 to allowing modern teaching and learning to occur in all schools across the country.

As an educator and a parent I have and do use digital learning to personalize learning, meet Common Core State Standards, gain practice with online assessments, and even make data-driven decisions based on objectives we haven't met yet or have gaps. An example of digital learning classroom is: Using read aloud tools with online resources to help learners who are struggling with reading overcome the barriers to understanding that information. However, most schools networks are barely just keeping up with demand (at times even failing), and the need for a reliable high-speed 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 requested a total of more than \$5 billion—twice the amount of 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.