

"E-Rate 2.0" is critical in modernizing a system conceived at a time when landlines and fiber networks were core concerns and web technologies were in their infancy. The world has changed and bandwidth, as important as that is, is probably the least expensive concern when schools that do not qualify for e-rate reimbursements on internal infrastructure projects (Tier 2) have to absorb the entire cost associated with bringing increased broadband speeds into the classrooms via switching, wireless access points and other associated hardware. Higher speeds at lower cost, as proposed in e-rate reform is excellent but if the internal infrastructure is not refreshed regularly to manage those higher speeds, classrooms won't benefit. Additionally, critical to school districts in post 2001 America is the need for rapid communication with parents, local law enforcement, county emergency management, and media. Funding for the technologies such as web portal, rapid dialing, and other mass communication vehicles should not be overlooked in the much needed e-rate modernization.