



DUNSMUIR JOINT UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Monday, September 16, 2013

Dear Sir/Madame,

I am writing today in response to the FCC's Notice of Proposed Rulemaking which, among other things, proposes changes to the E-Rate program. Before delving into my response to the proposed changes, I want to first thank the FCC for your continued support for the E-Rate program. The E-Rate program provides critical discounts to assist schools (like ours) to obtain affordable telecommunications and internet access.

Dunsmuir High School is a "small necessary school", and while CA is struggling to revamp it's funding for schools, small schools are continuing to take a hard hit financially. Our students especially will still need to be successful in the digital world and at an even higher need because of our rural location and our depressed socio-economic community. With all of the cuts education, CA schools especially, have taken over the past 7 years we are using these funds to play catch-up to the rest of California and the world.

The E-Rate program has been helping Dunsmuir High School. Without its funding we could not provide basic computer access to the classrooms and students. But our mission for updating technology must continue. Other schools we have communicated with are in the same boat. We need assurance we can keep moving forward, not a change in the rules. More funding is essential, combined with faster processing, if we are ever to get ahead of the curve.

As the FCC moves forward with this NPRM, it is prudent to remain focused on the fact that E-Rate is a program that works and that any changes to the E-Rate program should be focused on expanding a successful program that has yet to reach its full potential. The current program, while needing some marginal updates to its structure, is most strained by increasing demand for E-Rate-supported services and persistently low funding. The single most effective step the FCC can take to bolster E-Rates current and future success is to provide \$5 billion in funding, an amount commensurate with current demand.

There are additional programmatic changes and restructuring that can provide additional efficiencies and savings. To rely solely on programmatic efficiencies, however, without providing additional new funding is a shortsighted solution, a policy that fails to address the program's most significant problem: inadequate funding.

I think this NPRM is an opportunity to tackle the important work of expanding a successful program. E-Rate is not a broken program that needs to be fixed; it is a successful program that schools and libraries continue to rely on, a program that must continue to provide funding critical for telecommunications and connectivity.

Thank you for considering my response as you move forward with your decision on the E-Rate program. I applaud the FCC for its continued efforts to protect the already oversubscribed E-Rate program by ensuring the future of this successful program. I urge you to support significant increased funding for the E-Rate program, and to ensure that the program and its limited resources are protected and preserved.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ray Kellar', with a stylized, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Ray Kellar, Principal