

These comments are to reiterate the importance and need to not only continue, but enhance the E-Rate program in order to fully meet the needs of students. Some of the more important points include the following:

1. There is an increased demand for bandwidth to ensure there is sufficient resources available for 1:1 computing. Florence City Schools has gone from 50MB to 350MB pipeline for the district. This need will only increase, therefore, the need for continued and increased funding for bandwidth.
2. Simplification of E-Rate filing is desperately needed! Districts, many of which I am familiar, either are required to hire an individual to ensure that all forms are filed and deadlines are met...or a consultant is hired. This is additional expense to the district and reduces the impact of E-Rate on the district and student impact.
3. The program should better target current needs of school districts. There are many ineligible items that are desperately needed in order to fully integrate technology, implement and maintain a 1:1 Initiative, and make instructional support effective.

If given the opportunity, Florence City Schools would be honored to provide additional information to enhance and improve the E-Rate program. It has been a critical and essential program to the success of Florence City Schools.