



Bay Shore Union Free School District

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Karen B. Salmon, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools

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

September 13, 2013

Dear Sir/Madam,

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 mine) to obtain affordable telecommunications and Internet access.

The Bay Shore School District is a K-12 suburban school district located on the south shore of Long Island. The district presently has an enrollment of approximately 6000 students, of which 51% are receiving free or reduced lunch. With more than half of the student population in need of a subsidy, we have come to rely upon the E-Rate funds making it a critical component to maintain our Internet connectivity. Although our funding allocation is often not sufficient, we have been prudent with our E-Rate funding to benefit all of our students. Bay Shore has utilized its E-Rate funding to provide increased bandwidth and connectivity to the classrooms and labs throughout the district. Without E-Rate, we could not have expanded the conduit to deliver rich multimedia for learning or foster collaborative student research and analysis that aligns with the curriculum.

The E-Rate program is a program succeeding in its mission. 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.

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.

While E-Rate is a worthy program, it continues to be significantly underfunded as a result of the imposed cap. Examining the funding allocation total for 2013, New York State received 88% less than it received in 2012,



ultimately impacting our funding as well. I implore the FCC to expand the cap by doubling it to a subscribed demand amount of \$5 billion or more. This increase in funding would allow districts to provide greater implementation towards College and Career Readiness and 21st Century Learning Skills, which are an ever-growing necessity for our students' success

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 blue ink that reads "Karen B. Salmon, Ph.D." in a cursive style.

Karen B. Salmon, Ph.D.
Superintendent
Bay Shore Schools