

COUNTY BOARD  
OF EDUCATION

**CLARKE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**

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September 16, 2013  
Commission's Secretary  
Office of the Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission

Reference: WC Docket No. 13-184  
Notice of Proposed Rule making (NPRM) for E-Rate Modernization

The Clarke County Board of Education is a rural school system with limited funding. The E-Rate programs in years past have allowed our school system to have funding for internet bandwidth and WAN connectivity between the schools and the central office. Recently the use of online web based testing and assessment resources have expanded at a rapid pace, additional many teaching resources for the new Career and College Ready Standards are web based. The increased demands by these web- based resources for the available internet bandwidth is causing bandwidth bottlenecks and slowed internet traffic. This has impacted the testing and assessment of students and is slowing or on occasion stopping the use of the internet resources as teaching tools.

As school systems move towards more approved student devices (1 to 1) with each device needing internet access, the demand for additional bandwidth will expand even more rapidly than in the past few years. Without E-Rate support many if not most school system will not have adequate bandwidth. Additional many school systems need funding to improve and upgrade the existing internal LANs and school wireless infrastructure. Many times upgrades are not practical because of budgetary constraints. The E-Rate program should be expanded to provide additional source of funding for the modernization of school systems. Without additional funding school systems will struggle to meet the challenges of providing a technology infrastructure needed for today's educational programs.

Funding for the E-Rate program needs to be increased to provide more assistance to the country's schools. Without a significant increase in to the funding for the E-Rate program many school will fall behind quickly in the push to modernize and move into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century classroom teaching environment.

Thank you

Richard Prine  
Technology Coordinator  
Clarke County Board of Education