

I write to provide Comments to the FCC on the E-Rate NPRM, proceeding 13-184. The E-Rate has been of great importance to my district because it has helped our students and teachers gain access to a wealth of online resources, to communicate and collaborate, and to develop the 21st century skills necessary for college and career.

However, E-Rate funding levels have not kept pace with my district's bandwidth needs or the technological changes of the times. I urge you to consider either raising the E-rate funding level to at least \$5 billion per year, which is close to the average demand level for each of the past two years or reprioritizing funding to meet needs in areas such as Internal Connections.

As the (Sr. Network Specialist for Salt Lake City School District in Utah, I know that seamlessly infusing digital learning throughout the school curriculum is a pre-requisite for students to graduate from high school with the skills and knowledge they need to succeed in today's global economy. Access to high speed broadband is a key for modern teaching and learning to occur in all schools across the country, but not the final goal. I believe the final goal is to help kids learn how the world works in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. This is accomplished by allowing access for every individual student to the technological resources that introduce them to the real world. To accomplish this, more than just an Internet Connection, currently covered in Priority one filings, is needed. Funding for Internal connections (Priority 2) is badly needed and has been mostly ignored by the E-rate program.

Salt Lake City School District's west side schools average an 86% free and reduced lunch rate and typically but not always qualify for Priority 2 funding. However, the east side is barely keeping up with demand, because they don't qualify for Priority 2 dollars. The need for a high speed reliable network is only going to increase in the near future.

The E-rate program has been a phenomenal success in bringing Internet access to almost every classroom in America. However, the program has not kept up with the technology and changes are needed. In the last funding cycle applications from schools and libraries totaled more than \$5 billion, more than double the available funding. In current rules like the Tennessee rule, waste of resources is encouraged. Back when this rule was instated, there was a physical separation between the LAN and WAN. With today's technology, the separation of LAN and WAN is logical and one piece of equipment can perform both functions. Things like the Tennessee Rule are still living in the 20<sup>th</sup> century and are forcing people to buy more devices than are needed, thus wasting valuable E-rate dollars. I respectfully urge the FCC to re-evaluate priorities and recognize that rules and funding need to change as the technology changes. I suggest more funding and efficiencies for the E-Rate program to be allocated to Internal connections. It is not just an Internet circuit that is needed but stable robust Local Area Networks and Wireless Local Area Networks. One to One initiatives are moving from a want to a need in education. There is simply no way to accomplish this without the stability and density of a good Wireless LAN, which is currently covered by Internal Connections. Internal connections have seemed to be an ignored category that cannot be ignored any longer. For those whose poverty levels are high enough, they may be lucky to fund Internal connections for schools that have a 90% free & reduced lunch rate. That leaves millions of schools without the funding needed for Internal connections to provide students with the 21<sup>st</sup> century learning that is needed today. All students need access to high speed broadband. To reach one to one initiative goals, all students need stable robust high density wireless LANS in their schools. Our nation's future depends on their success.