

December 23, 2013

**VIA ELECTRONIC FILING**

Marlene H. Dortch  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th St. SW  
Washington, DC 20554

**Re: Ex Parte Communication (WC Docket No. 13-184)**  
***Modernizing the E-rate Program for Schools and Libraries***

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On December 21, 2013, I submitted the attached e-mail to Daniel Alvarez, Legal Advisor to Chairman Tom Wheeler. In it, I provided Mr. Alvarez with hyperlinks to several E-rate related analyses and reports that have previously been published by Funds For Learning®.

Pursuant to Section 1.1206 of the Commission's Rules, this letter is being filed electronically.

Sincerely yours,

*/s/ John D. Harrington*

John D. Harrington  
Chief Executive Officer

**From:** John Harrington  
**Sent:** Saturday, December 21, 2013 12:34 AM  
**To:** Daniel Alvarez  
**Subject:** E-rate Reform // Funds For Learning Data

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Hello Daniel,

It was good to meet you this week and I appreciate you sharing some of your precious time to discuss E-rate with those of us in the meeting.

In the past, Funds For Learning has provided a great deal of information to the FCC's E-rate team; and I want you to know that we are a resource for you and Chairman Wheeler as you consider the topic of E-rate reform.

In that spirit, I wanted to share a few resources with you that you may find helpful. There are MANY more reports and analysis that I can provide you, but I thought these would be of immediate interest to you.

I look forward to talking again soon.

Regards,  
John

**\*\* ITEMS OF INTEREST \*\***

**Forecast: Priority One Demand**

Demand for telecomm and Internet access is increasing -- and the growth rate is accelerating. Demand for telecomm and Internet access alone could be \$4.9 billion by FY2016. ([here](#))

**Analysis: Finding Factors Behind Funding Delays**

Consortium applications takes 3 times longer to receive funding decisions than comparable school district applications. This discourages consortium participation. ([here](#))

**Estimates: Projecting Broadband Deployment Costs**

Annual E-rate funding should be set at \$6.8 billion to achieve basic levels of student broadband connectivity. Projections based on average FY2013 per student expenses. ([here](#))

**Impact: Demonstrating the Impact of Policy on Rural Schools**

The FCC's current "Priority" rules have eliminated internal connections funding for 4.7 million students in rural schools. Because of this policy, as many as 3,200 rural schools sites may be denied E-rate support entirely beginning in FY2014, including denials for support of broadband Internet access. ([here](#))

**Visualize: Illustrating Big Spenders**

Big Spenders, large schools that request more than \$200 per student annually, represent a threat to the E-rate's long term viability. This video explains the "Big Spender" concept. ([here](#))

**Actionable Ideas: Specific, Data-Driven Proposals**

Funds For Learning has developed a specific, data-driven model of E-rate reform using historical E-rate funding data and recommendations of the 2003 USAC Taskforce on Waste, Fraud and Abuse. The resulting proposal is a sustainable model that requires minimal change to the E-rate's structure, while encouraging cost-effectiveness, accountability, and predictability. This video provides an overview of the proposal. ([here](#))