

May 23, 2014

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FILED ELECTRONICALLY

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

Re: **Modernizing the E-rate Program for Schools and Libraries, WC Docket No. 13-184**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On May 20, 2014, Blair Levin, representing the LEAD Commission, met with Patrick Halley, Jonathan Chambers, Julie Veach, Michael Steffen, and Jon Wilkins. Mr. Levin reiterated the LEAD Commission view that the Commission should act expeditiously to modernize and expand the program within the following framework:

- Upgrade the program. The initial goal of the E-Rate program, to connect every school and library, is no longer sufficient to address the needs of our students and leverage the potential for today's digital learning. The goal instead should focus on capacity per user (student, educator, administrator, library user). We recommend that the FCC establish new capacity goals to meet the long-term needs of schools, districts, libraries, and library systems.
- Focus expenditures on providing broadband to classrooms and libraries to meet capacity needs today and into the future. To ensure that every student has an equal opportunity to learn and be prepared to participate in the knowledge economy, we must connect our schools and libraries to high-capacity broadband and deploy ubiquitous wireless networks throughout the school and library so that the needs of today's and tomorrow's students can be met.
- Encourage schools and libraries to purchase bandwidth more efficiently. In this era of limited resources the FCC should structure the program to help schools and libraries lower the cost of high-speed bandwidth.
- Simplify the process for schools and libraries to apply for funds. The record makes clear that while the E-Rate application process has improved, it places unnecessary burdens on applicants, especially in small, rural districts where personnel to fill out paperwork is scarce.

Please contact me if you have any questions regarding this meeting.

Sincerely,

*/s/ Samuel L. Feder*

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cc: Patrick Halley  
Jonathan Chambers  
Julie Veach  
Michael Steffen  
Jon Wilkins