



Southeast of Saline School

UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT 306



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June 30, 2014

To: FCC

From: Richard Proffitt
Superintendent of Schools
USD #306 Southeast of Saline
Gypsum, KS 67448

I am writing to express my profound concern with the FCC's proposal to allocate portions of the E-Rate funding on a per pupil basis. In school districts like ours, where fiscal resources are limited, the E-Rate funding is essential in providing adequate internet connections so that enhanced learning for all students can take place. This change, if it occurs, would force us to shift valuable resources away from other critical programs.

Our school district is an extremely rural district. We serve 5 very small towns, and our school is 5 miles away from any incorporated city. We are extremely limited in our ability to secure adequate internet service to our students and library. We are at the mercy of only one provider, who works well with our district, but dictates to us the rate at which we can receive service. If there was a change in the E-rate system, we would have to make choices that would have severe effects on the learning for all of our students.

I am concerned that the FCC's proposal proposes a five-year timeline for these changes yet only provides funding for the first 2 years. This would leave the E-Rate program in an unsustainable position. It is critical for the FCC to consider the ramifications that this change would have on students and districts.

Sincerely,

Richard Proffitt
Superintendent of Schools
USD #306 Southeast of Saline