



## MISSISSIPPI ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS

July 3, 2014

Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street SW  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Commissioners Clyburn, O'Rielly, Pai & Rosenworcel:

On behalf of the educators in the state of Mississippi, I am writing to express our support for Chairman Wheeler's proposal to modernize the E-rate program, prioritize broadband, and provide the funding needed to bring high-speed wireless access to Mississippi's K-12 classrooms.

Our teachers and students are increasingly using online content, educational applications, and teaching tools to improve learning outcomes and prepare our students to succeed in the knowledge economy. Yet today, nearly 60 percent of schools lack the high-speed Wi-Fi networks that allow for the effective use of technology in the classroom. Upgrading the Wi-Fi in our classrooms is critical to our efforts to bring equal educational opportunity to all of our students and it is imperative that the Commission act this summer to begin closing the Wi-Fi gap immediately.

The Chairman's plan also takes necessary and important steps to update the 18-year-old E-rate program including lowering broadband costs through price transparency and easing the administrative burden on districts by simplifying the application process.

This E-rate order represents a major step forward for connectivity in America's classrooms. We urge you to support Chairman Wheeler's plan on July 11<sup>th</sup> and then to continue the modernization process by taking the additional steps necessary to increase the affordability of broadband and ensure that every school has the resources it needs to meet the ConnectED connectivity goals.

Thank you for your attention and prompt action on this critical matter for America's students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Sam Bounds'. The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Sam Bounds, Ed.D.  
Executive Director