

Wabash Community Schools

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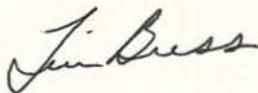
To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing concerning the scheduled vote on proposed changes to the E-Rate program. The proposed changes are a threat to rural school districts such as Wabash CUSD #348. E-Rate is a program that works. The strength of the E-Rate program is the simplicity and clarity of its goal: connectivity, while the biggest obstacle is a lack of adequate funding. E-Rate provides funding that is vital to establishing, upgrading and maintaining telecommunications access to schools and libraries. Additionally, schools rely heavily on E-Rate resources as part of their comprehensive education technology plans.

The looming implementation of online assessments will highlight how far we have come, but also how far we have to go to reach technology readiness for all students, not just those students with access to opportunity. The initial conversation needs to shift from merely establishing connectivity to expanding connectivity. E-Rate funding represents the only federal funding for education technology. In order to continue to ensure our students will be provided with robust digital learning opportunities it is imperative that the FCC permanently raise the E-Rate cap.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Tim Buss
Superintendent