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As superintendent of schools, I strongly object to the proposed phase-down of discounts for traditional voice service beginning in FY 2015, to be reduced by 20% yearly, eventually zeroing out. This change will result in an approximately \$100K annual loss to our budget. Worse yet, because we have already invested a substantial amount of capital to upgrade our technological infrastructure and provide technology resources for our students, we will not benefit substantially from E-Rate's new focus to provide broadband components to districts.

After receiving a discount on phone services for 18 years, we have come to rely on the assistance and budget accordingly. Though probably well-intentioned, the program administrators likely failed to understand that these cuts will create a financial hardship for Bristol and many, many other districts, negatively impacting the services that we can provide students.

I'd welcome the opportunity to speak to any of the program administrators or commissioners on the phone (423) 652-9201 or in person to explain the unintended consequences that this change will cause.

Gary Lilly,
Bristol Tennessee City Schools