



NEWS

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This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action.
See MCI v. FCC, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Circ 1974).

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FCC COMMISSIONER JESSICA ROSENWORCEL ON THE CONNECTED INITIATIVE

Washington, D.C.—In response to President Barack Obama’s announcement of the ConnectED initiative to connect 99 percent of America’s students to high-speed broadband and high-speed wireless within five years and calling on the FCC to reform its E-Rate program to meet that goal, FCC Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel stated:

“President Obama’s ConnectED initiative recognizes that access to adequate broadband capacity to our schools and libraries is not a luxury—it’s a necessity for America’s next generation of students to be able to compete. Through the E-Rate program, the nation’s largest education technology program, we have done great things to connect schools and libraries. But year-in and year-out, the demand for E-Rate dollars is double the amount the Commission makes available, and our surveys suggest that 80 percent of schools and libraries believe their broadband connections do not meet their current needs. It is time to answer the President’s call to upgrade the E-Rate program for the 21st Century. It is time for E-Rate 2.0. We need to protect what we have done, build on it, and put it on a course to provide higher speeds and greater opportunities in the days ahead. This initiative is an exciting effort that has my wholehearted and enthusiastic support.”

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