



January 16, 2014

Marlene Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: WC Docket No. 13-184

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On January 15, 2014, the following members of the Education & Libraries Networks Coalition met with Jon Wilkins of the Office of the Managing Director, Lisa Hone, Trent Harkrader, James Bachtell, Kim Scardino, Patrick Halley and Mark Walker of the Wireline Competition Bureau, Gigi Sohn of Chairman Wheeler's office, and Jonathan Chambers and Michael Steffen of the Office of Strategic Planning:

Jon Bernstein, International Society for Technology in Education
Lucy Gettman, National Schools Boards Association
Kathy Knight, US Conference of Catholic Bishops
Corey Williams, National Education Association
Hilary Goldmann, International Society for Technology in Education
Dale McDonald, National Catholic Education Association
Marijke Visser, American Library Association
Noelle Ellerson, American Association of School Administrators
Ellen Fern, National Association of Elementary School Principals and National Association of Secondary School Principals
Whitney Work, National Association of Independent Schools
Reg Leichty, Consortium for School Networking

Chairman Wheeler and Sagar Doshi of his office also stopped by the meeting briefly.

In the meeting, EdLiNC explained that the organizations around the table represented the vast majority of the program's beneficiaries and had worked on passage, implementation and individual Commission rulemakings related to the program since 1995. EdLiNC emphasized the need to raise the program's annual cap to \$5 billion in order to keep pace

with technology changes in schools and libraries since the program's inception and to meet demonstrated need as evidenced by aggregate application demand each year. EdLiNC noted in the discussion the value of internal connections and that significant pent-up need for internal connections existed because of limited funding available historically for Priority II. EdLiNC also observed that, given trends that show demand for Priority I support alone now is in excess of the existing annual funding cap, the diversion of roll-over funds to any other purpose would make it impossible to provide any Priority II support henceforward – without an infusion of new funding. EdLiNC also indicated that the program needed a permanent increase in support and that a short term or one-time infusion of capital would be inadequate to meet current or projected demand.

EdLiNC also supported the importance of developing new, broadband-focused goals for the program in line with proposals advanced by President Obama and Commissioner Rosenworcel. EdLiNC agreed that encouraging the formation of consortia and finding additional efficiencies within the program would help the program in the long term. Finally, EdLiNC underscored the importance of two key tenets of the program – technological neutrality and local decision making – and stated that they should remain bedrock principles of a future E-Rate 2.0.

Sincerely,

Jon Bernstein
President
Bernstein Strategy Group