



July 7, 2014

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

Dear Chairman Wheeler, Commissioner Clyburn, Commissioner Rosenworcel,
Commissioner Pai, and Commissioner O'Reilly:

E-Rate Central writes to express our support for the FCC's efforts to modernize the E-rate program. Beginning the process of reforming the E-rate program now is an important and timely first step toward achieving the critical national goal of providing America's students with access to high-speed broadband in their schools and libraries within the next five years.

E-Rate Central believes that it is critical that the Commission adopt an initial E-rate modernization order this month so that new rules and procedures may be fleshed out and explained to all applicants and service providers well in advance of the FY 2015 application window. E-Rate Central's support of early action on E-rate modernization is conditioned on two key points.

First, E-Rate Central recognizes that the success of the Commission's E-rate reforms will depend upon a number of detailed rules and regulations that have yet to be made public. E-Rate Central encourages the Commission to seek comment from the E-rate community on these details, and respond accordingly, as early as possible.

Second, E-Rate Central believes that the Commission's broadband and W-Fi goals can be met only with adequate funding. If the FCC isn't going to increase in the annual funding cap, E-Rate Central encourages the Commission to take whatever steps necessary to maximize roll-over funding for FY 2015. The \$1 billion identified by the Commission is unlikely to be enough to satisfy the pent-up demand for Category 2 funding and to fully fund Category 1 services (even with substantial first-year cuts to legacy services). Given the importance of effective funding of the E-rate modernization initiative for FY 2015, E-Rate Central would support an early decision by the Commission to forego any Priority 2 funding for FY 2014, and to roll-over whatever additional funds might be otherwise available into FY 2015.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. Himsworth".

Winston E. Himsworth
Executive Director