

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

April 14, 2016

Re: E-rate application deadline extension request

Dear Chairman Wheeler and Fellow Commissioners:

The Education and Libraries Networks Coalition (EdLiNC), a group comprised of many of the major k-12 public and private education associations and the American Library Association, writes to request the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), in consultation with the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC), extend the E-rate Program's Fiscal Year 2017 deadline to allow applicants more time to complete the application process.

EdLiNC has long championed the E-rate and supported the recent modernization and overhaul of the program, recognizing the positive impact on our members' ability to provide high-speed broadband connectivity. EdLiNC recognizes such significant changes to the program require applicants to also navigate and respond to changes to both the application and the application process. EdLiNC's members, E-rate beneficiaries in schools and public libraries across the country, have shared they are having difficulties specifically with navigating and successfully completing the revamped application portal. Thus, we ask that the application deadline be extended. With the E-rate application deadline of April 29, 2016 fast approaching, additional time to complete the application process would greatly benefit potential beneficiaries.

To date, the E-rate program has been successful at connecting our nation's schools and public libraries to the internet. However, we all know that connectivity alone is not enough. The recent modernization of the E-rate is also helping to ensure our nation's schools and public libraries have high-capacity broadband connectivity to the internet – which is essential to supporting 21st century teaching and learning. To ensure the application process is not a road block for applicants' ability to pursue critical E-rate support, we request the deadline for E-rate applications for FY 2017 be extended.

We appreciate the opportunity to offer our thoughts on improving the E-rate program application process and thank you in advance for considering our request.

Sincerely,

AASA, The School Superintendents Association

American Federation of Teachers

American Library Association

Association of Educational Service Agencies
Association of School Business Officials International
Consortium for School Networking
International Society for Technology in Education
National Association of Elementary School Principals
National Association of Independent Schools
National Association of Secondary School Principals
National Catholic Educational Association
National Education Association
National PTA
National Rural Education Association
National Rural Education Advocacy Coalition
National School Boards Association
State Educational Technology Directors Association
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops