

Letter to the Editor

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Insert Your Letterhead

To the Editor:

(Name of school district) is steadfastly committed to ensuring that our students are thoroughly engaged in innovative, digital media experiences to enhance the quality of their learning.

At a time when standards placed on teaching and academic outcomes continue to rise, providing high technology solutions is critical in our schools. That's why I applaud this summer's move by the Federal Communications Commission to approve the E-Rate Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM). The FCC now seeks public comment to modernize the E-Rate program, an integral component in supporting the growing digital landscape across the country.

E-Rate is a federal program, funded through telecommunications companies, that helps school districts afford their communications connectivity, including the Internet.

The action taken by the FCC reflects the ongoing conversation among educators nationwide and complements the President's ConnectED proposal to provide high-speed broadband Internet access to 99 percent of the nation's students. Who can argue against this?

Moving forward, I call on my fellow superintendents in our state to support the FCC with respect to this rule making. The conversation needs to shift from establishing connectivity to expanding connectivity, especially for the benefit of students from low-income families. This expansion will only happen with increased investment in the E-Rate program, whose funding has remained virtually unchanged since the program was created. The FCC can bolster digital learning by investing \$5 billion in E-Rate, an amount that would meet current demand.

If we're serious about saying we want our kids to compete in the 21st century global economy, we need to support this initiative because it provides funding that is vital to establishing, upgrading and maintaining telecommunications access to schools and libraries.

As the education industry continues to change through the digital revolution, let's maximize our efforts to support what is right for our kids.

Name of superintendent

Title

School district

City, state abbreviation

Contact information

