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Call to Action: Grow the Digital Edge in our Schools

The start of a new school year is always an exciting time. Classrooms throughout (name of school district) provide models of excellence when it comes to the way teachers teach and how students learn. I look forward to working with our staff to maintain our high standards throughout our schools. But this year in particular, I look forward to enhancing our digital-based learning tools that are essential in helping us get to where we want to go.

School districts such as the Mooresville Graded School District in North Carolina have shown that if we want our students to be competitive in this day and age, we must integrate technology throughout their curriculum and instruction. We can only do that, however, by equipping our schools and classrooms with high-speed Internet access so that our students can benefit from essential digital learning initiatives.

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.

What is E-Rate? It's a program that provides schools and libraries with discounts that support affordable telecommunications and Internet connectivity. But despite its early, rapid and continued success, high-speed access in classrooms remains inadequate in too many districts across the country. The FCC's approval reflects the comments by the public focusing on the need to modernize the program—which is critical to supporting school connectivity. It complements the President's ConnectED proposal to provide high-speed broadband Internet access to 99 percent of the nation's students within five years.

(Name of school district) is steadfastly committed to ensuring that our students are thoroughly engaged in innovative, digital media experiences to impact the quality of their learning. I hope communities and schools beyond our district will join me in supporting the E-Rate program by further investigating its possibilities for the nation's students and participating in the digital connectivity conversation.

For additional information about the E-Rate program, please see the [AASA E-Rate toolkit](#).