

**Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20554**

In the Matter of)
)
Universal Service Contribution Methodology) WC Docket No. 06-122

REPLY COMMENTS IN THE FORM OF A LETTER FROM 108 SCHOOL AND DISTRICT LEADERS FROM 38 STATES OPPOSING THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION’S PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH AN OVERALL CAP AND SUB-CAPS FOR THE UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND. RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY THE ALLIANCE FOR EXCELLENT EDUCATION ON BEHALF OF THE SIGNATORIES.

School and District Leader Letter Opposing Proposed Changes to the Universal Service Fund and
Supporting the E-rate Program

August 26, 2019

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

Re: WC Docket No. 06-122

Dear Chairman Pai, Commissioner O’Rielly, Commissioner Carr, Commissioner Rosenworcel,
and Commissioner Starks:

We, the undersigned school and district leaders, write to oppose the Federal Communications Commission’s (FCC’s) proposal to establish an overall cap on the Universal Service Fund (USF) and combine the E-rate and Rural Health Care (RHC) Program spending caps. As school and district leaders, we know firsthand how important reliable Wi-Fi is for providing students with a quality education, and we are concerned that the FCC’s proposal would negatively impact the E-rate program.

The USF finances E-rate, the RHC Program, and two other programs that aim to improve communications for rural and low-income communities. We believe combining all four USF programs under one spending cap will create an environment where the programs must compete for funding. Moreover, the proposal to merge the spending caps for E-rate and the RHC Program muddles the distinct purposes of the two programs. E-rate was created to support schools and libraries, not rural health-care facilities.

Many of us supported the FCC’s E-rate Modernization Orders in 2014, which prioritized funds for Wi-Fi and raised the annual E-rate spending cap. The E-rate Modernization Orders have been a huge success, increasing the number of students with access to high-speed broadband for digital learning from 4 million in 2013 to 45 million in 2018. Nonetheless, more than 2.3 million students still lack access to high-speed broadband.¹ Therefore, it is crucial that the FCC maintain its full commitment to the E-rate program and not needlessly hinder its potential by capping the USF or combining the E-rate and RHC Program spending caps. Wi-Fi access in our schools and libraries is essential for preparing students for the modern digital economy.

Sincerely,

Alabama

Matthew Alexander
Superintendent of Education
Barbour County
Alabama

Chris Jenks
Director of Technology
Tuscaloosa City
Alabama

¹ For more information, see EducationSuperHighway, *2018 State of the States: Expanding Digital Learning to Every Classroom, Every Day* (San Francisco, CA: Author, 2018)
http://stateofthestates.educationsuperhighway.org/?utm_source=esh&utm_medium=blog&utm_campaign=SotS18#national.

School and District Leader Letter Opposing Proposed Changes to the Universal Service Fund and
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Arizona

Dean Farar
CIO
Yuma Union High School District
Arizona

Bill Sakelarios
Charter Holder
Pace Preparatory Academy Inc.
Arizona

Kristin Turner
Superintendent
Paloma School District
Arizona

Arkansas

Gina Rotenberry
Technology Coordinator
Yellville-Summit School District
Arkansas

Bryce Walker
Director of Technology/E-rate Coordinator
Hot Springs School District
Arkansas

California

Ken Balliger
Director of Technology
Murrieta Valley Unified
California

Colleen Calvano
Executive Director, Technology Services
Oakland Unified
California

Dr. Steve Kennedy
Superintendent
Menifee Union Elementary
California

Ben Markley
Chief Technology Officer
Hemet Unified
California

Sherry Martin
Superintendent and Principal
Kings River Union Elementary
California

David Miyashiro
Superintendent
Cajon Valley Union
California

Adrian Palazuelos, Ph.D.
Superintendent
Fillmore Unified
California

Angelica Ramsey
Superintendent
Pleasant Valley
California

Mary Westendorf
Superintendent
Fruitvale Elementary
California

Manuel Zamudio
Director of Technology
Monterey Peninsula Unified
California

Colorado

Chris Gdowski
Superintendent
Adams 12 Five Star Schools
Colorado

William Wilson
Superintendent
School District No. Re-2 Brush
Colorado

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Connecticut

Barbara Haeffner
Director for Teaching and Innovation
Meriden School District
Connecticut

Georgia

Joseph C. Barrow, Jr., Ed.D.
Superintendent
Fayette County
Georgia

Illinois

Sarah Barnstable
Assistant Superintendent
Carterville CUSD #5
Illinois

Todd Dugan
Superintendent
Bunker Hill CUSD #8
Illinois

Jennifer Kelsall
Superintendent
Ridgewood CHSD #234
Illinois

Jerolee Look
Principal
Limestone CHSD #310
Illinois

Karen Sullivan
Superintendent
Indian Prairie CUSD #204
Illinois

Indiana

Steven Disney
Superintendent
River Forest Community School Corp.
Indiana

Phil Downs
Superintendent
MSD of Southwest Allen Co. Schools
Indiana

Chris Himsel
Superintendent
Northwest Allen Co. Schools
Indiana

Nathan Kleefisch
Superintendent
MSD of Boone Township
Indiana

Ann Linson
Superintendent
East Noble School Corporation
Indiana

Todd Terrill
Superintendent
Richmond Community Schools
Indiana

Kevin Trezak
Assistant Superintendent
River Forest Community School Corp.
Indiana

Diana Villarreal
Superintendent
River Forest Community School Corp.
Indiana

Michelle Wories
Director of Technology
River Forest Community School Corp.
Indiana

Iowa

Steve Bass
Superintendent
Urbandale Community School District
Iowa

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Kansas

Alan Jamison
Superintendent/Federal Director
Caldwell USD 360
Kansas

Louisiana

Kelli Joseph
Superintendent
St. Helena Parish
Louisiana

Maine

Ken Kunin
Superintendent
South Portland Public Schools
Maine

Michigan

Mark Bielang
Superintendent
Portage Public Schools
Michigan

Nanette Pauley
Superintendent
Marcellus Community Schools
Michigan

Paul Shoup
Superintendent
Mason County Eastern Schools
Michigan

Mississippi

Timothy Bryant
Technology Director
Marion Co. School District
Mississippi

Missouri

Chris Ford
Superintendent
Fordland R-III School District
Missouri

Cheryl Mack
Superintendent
Community R-VI School District
Missouri

Montana

DJ Howell
Technology Coordinator
East Helena Elementary
Montana

Scott Kinney
Superintendent
Superior K-12 Schools
Montana

Jennifer Packer
Superintendent
Lincoln K-12 Schools
Montana

Toby Wetsch
Business Manager
Drummond Public Schools
Montana

Nebraska

John Weidner, Sr.
Superintendent
Twin River Public Schools
Nebraska

Nevada

Wayne Workman
Superintendent
Lyon County School District
Nevada

New Hampshire

Kathleen Cuddy-Egbert
Superintendent of Schools
Governor Wentworth Regional School Dist.
New Hampshire

School and District Leader Letter Opposing Proposed Changes to the Universal Service Fund and
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New Jersey

Donna Ambrosius
Superintendent of Schools
Florence Township School District
New Jersey

David Astor
Superintendent
Ogdensburg Borough School District
New Jersey

Edythe Austermuhl
Superintendent
Berlin Township School District
New Jersey

Daniel Diaz
Supervisor of Technology
North Bergen School District
New Jersey

Riza Gurcanli
Lead Person (CSA)
Paterson Charter School for Science and
Technology
New Jersey

Jared Keshishian
District Supervisor of Science
North Bergen School District
New Jersey

Marta Rodriguez
Teacher
West New York Board of Education
New Jersey

Lisa Savoia, Ed.D.
Superintendent
Keyport School District
New Jersey

New Mexico

Raquel Whitebird
Technology Director
Grants Cibola County Schools
New Mexico

New York

Dana Castine
Director of Math, Science, Technology
Florida Union Free School District
New York

Dr. Harold Dean
Superintendent
Little Flower Union Free School District
New York

Johnny Satterwhite
Superintendent
New York City Geographic District #16
New York

Rocco Varuolo
Director of Instructional Technology and
Information Services
Westbury Union Free School District
New York

North Carolina

David Sutton
Superintendent
Rutherford County Schools
North Carolina

Ohio

Melissa Kircher
Superintendent
Bethel-Tate Local Schools
Ohio

Gaylord Moore
Superintendent
Monroeville Local Schools
Ohio

School and District Leader Letter Opposing Proposed Changes to the Universal Service Fund and
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Oklahoma

Joann Ball
Special Services
Comanche Public Schools
Oklahoma

Stacey Bowen
Administrator
Comanche Public Schools
Oklahoma

Doug Brown
Superintendent
Idabel Public Schools
Oklahoma

Brent Crow
Principal
Comanche Middle School
Oklahoma

Terry Davidson
Finance Director
Comanche Public Schools
Oklahoma

Angela Doss
Principal and E-rate Director
Elmore City-Pernell Public Schools
Oklahoma

Steven Dunham
Principal
Comanche High School
Oklahoma

Stacy Ezell
Technology Director
Haskell Public Schools
Oklahoma

Elizabeth Ressel
Director of FAME Academy
Comanche Public Schools
Oklahoma

Curtis Shahan
Technology Services Director
Comanche Public Schools
Oklahoma

Krista Whitlock
Special Education Director
Comanche Public Schools
Oklahoma

Oregon

Sarah Aaserude
Sr. Content Specialist
North Clackamas School District
Oregon

Pennsylvania

Gary Adams
Director of Technology
Palisades School District
Pennsylvania

Tara Desiderio
Principal
East Penn School District
Pennsylvania

Ryan Fitterling
Director of Technology
Wilson School District
Pennsylvania

Richard Fry
Superintendent of Schools
Big Spring School District
Pennsylvania

Shane Hotchkiss
Superintendent
Bermudian Springs School District
Pennsylvania

John Mott
IT Manager
Montessori Regional Charter School
Pennsylvania

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Adam Smith
School Director
East Penn School District
Pennsylvania

Rhode Island

Nancy Health
Director/Principal
Rhode Island School for the Deaf
Rhode Island

South Dakota

Jason Selchert
Superintendent
Gayville-Volin School District 63-1
South Dakota

Tennessee

Jeanne Barker
Director of Schools
Lenoir City Schools
Tennessee

Texas

Dr. Jennifer Miller
Chair, Assistant Professor of Education
Alpine ISD
Texas

Nicky Vandergriff
Content Specialist
Georgetown ISD
Texas

Charles Woods
Deputy Superintendent of Business
Alief ISD
Texas

Utah

Jill Gildea
Superintendent
Park City District
Utah

Hanifi Oguz
Executive Director
Beehive Science & Technology Academy
Utah

Vermont

Brian Hill
Chief Academic Officer
Mill River Unified School District
Vermont

Virginia

Michael George
Chief Operations/Information Officer
Fredericksburg City Public Schools
Virginia

Beverly Horner
Director of Technology
Colonial Beach Public Schools
Virginia

Samantha Killion
Teacher
Fredericksburg City Public Schools
Virginia

Washington

Krestin Bahr
Superintendent
Eatonville School District
Washington

Michael Christianson
Chief Technology Officer
Bethel School District
Washington

Marcus Morgan
Superintendent
Reardan-Edwall School District
Washington

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Wisconsin

David Gundlach
Deputy Superintendent
Oshkosh Area School District
Wisconsin

Jason Tadlock
Superintendent of Schools
Elkhorn Area School District
Wisconsin

Joseph Zirngibl
District Administrator
Butternut School District
Wisconsin

Wyoming

Gillian Chapman
Superintendent
Teton County School District #1
Wyoming

Andi Ward
Network Manager
Carbon County School District #2
Wyoming