

E-Rate Petition

Whereas: In 1996, the U.S. Congress had the foresight to establish the E-Rate program to help schools and libraries gain internet access.

Whereas: The E-rate program has helped successfully connected more than 95 percent of our nation's classrooms, and 100% of its libraries to the internet.

Whereas: Funding for the E-Rate program has essentially remained level since 1998.

Whereas: Schools and libraries across the country are transitioning to the digital age, resulting in a significant increases in costs for high-speed broadband.

Whereas: In the Program Year 2014 funding cycle, school and library E-Rate applications totaled nearly \$5 billion.

Whereas: One year ago President Obama announced the ConnectEd initiative with the goal of connecting 99 percent of our nation's students to high speed broadband in five years.

Whereas: The FCC initiated a rulemaking requesting public comment on how to modernize and update the E-Rate program.

Whereas: ISTE and the education and library community, representing the beneficiaries of the program have stated that:

- The E-Rate program is extremely successful.
- Funding for the E-Rate program is inadequate to meet current and future demand and a permanent increase to the funding cap is necessary.

Whereas: educators from across the country have filed public comments with the FCC requesting and explaining that the E-rate cap must be increased if schools are to provide the education our students need to succeed in the global economy.

Therefore, may it be resolved that ISTE and educators across the country request the Federal Communications Commission to #RaiseTheErateCap prior to the start of the 2014-15 school year.