

CONNECTING SCHOOLS AND LIBRARIES TO THE INTERNET

Myth vs Reality

There are a series of arguments that opponents of the new E-Rate program make that are more myth than fact. Here is the reality.

Myth: We don't need the E-rate -- 80% of schools are already wired to the Internet.

Reality: While 78% of schools have at least one Internet connection, too often that Internet connection goes to the Administrator's office. The challenge is to bring Internet connections to the classroom where learning takes place. Today however, only 27% of classrooms have an Internet connection. In poor and minority schools, only 13% of classrooms have Internet access -- half the average.

The E-Rate program gives crucial discounts to schools and libraries, with the steepest discounts going to the neediest communities. Through this tailored program, the Administration is committed to helping ensure that all children--regardless of race, income or geography--can have an equal chance to learn and succeed.

Myth: Phone bills are going up because of the E-rate.

Reality: Phone bills are not going up because of the e-rate. Long distance phone bills are now at their lowest point in history. The telecommunications Act of 1996 created a unique opportunity to both lower telecommunications prices and extend the benefits of the information age to all of our nation's children. The cost to industry for support of the schools and libraries program has been offset by reductions in access charges -- money that long distance companies pay to connect to local telephone companies. In the last 11 months, access charge reductions to long distance companies have equaled \$2.4 billion -- more than offsetting the \$2.02 billion in estimated demand for the schools and library program. In fact, long distance rates have dropped 6% in the last year and continue to fall.

Myth: AT&T is charging consumers a 5% "Gore-Tax" to pay for the e-rate.

Reality: Phone bills are not going up because of the e-rate. AT&T does not have to charge consumers more. This is not a federally mandated charge, but a choice that AT&T has made on its own.

But the fact is, this new 5% item on their bill is neither new nor just for the

Schools and Library Program. They say that the 5% surcharge is to "give schools and libraries access to advanced services like the Internet." But in fact, about half of this surcharge would go to cover the costs of providing telephone service to people in rural and high-cost areas. This rural and high-cost support is NOT a new task but the continuation of a 60 year commitment America has made to help all our citizens have phone service. Opponents of the E-rate are trying to hide this fact by blaming the surcharge on schools and libraries. Even if there were no E-Rate program, these companies would still be putting a new percentage charge on their bills.

- AT&T is double dipping. The long distance companies are receiving \$2.4 billion dollars in reductions in their cost of doing business, because of the direct actions of the FCC in accordance with the telecommunication Act of 1996. These reductions more than pay for the money that 30,000 schools and libraries have told us they need. But AT&T and other long distance companies want to keep that \$2.4 billion in savings for themselves and insist that consumers should pay for connections for schools and libraries.

Myth: Al Gore is just wiring classrooms for political benefit.

Reality: Al Gore is committed to making sure that children have access to the tools of the future not because children are Democrats or Republicans, but because they are our future. Politics should stop at the schoolhouse door.

The E-rate is a bipartisan effort. It comes from bi-partisan legislation, the Snowe-Rockefeller amendment to the Telecommunications bill, was passed unanimously by a bipartisan FCC and continues to enjoy bi-partisan support as characterized by recent letters strongly supporting the program from a bi-partisan group of Senators (including Jeffords, Chafee, Snowe and Santorum among others), a bi-partisan group of House members, and a bi-partisan group of Governors.

This program is not only a result of the Vice President's commitment to children, it is the result of a public 18 month FCC proceeding in which nearly 1000 groups participated with nearly 3000 filings amounting to nearly 56,000 pages.

Myth: The educational benefits of this program are uncertain.

Reality: In a decade-long series of studies, the Education Department reports that students in classes that use computers outperform their peers on standardized tests of basic skills by an average of 30%. And a 1996 study showed that students with access to the Internet not only presented their final projects in more creative ways but also turned in work that was more complete and had better syntheses of different points of view. Numerous other studies show that children in technology-rich

learning environments showed more enthusiasm, had higher attendance rates, developed better writing skills and displayed a greater capacity to communicate effectively about complex problems.

Myth: **There are schools in low-income areas that can't even afford books. This a mismatched priority diverting needed resources away from other, more pressing, educational priorities.**

Reality: We need not limit ourselves to investing in one or the other. We can do both, and we must.

Since 1993, the President and Vice President have worked hard to improve education from preschool to postgraduate level. The administration expanded Head Start, created Goals 2000 to help states set high academic standards, expanded charter schools, focused Title 1 funds more on low-income children, while setting the same standards for those children as for all others, and made college affordable to everyone through grants, loans, scholarships and tax benefits.

In the President's balanced budget, which he sent to Congress in February, he proposed to build on those accomplishments by expanding those key investments while also paying for 100,000 new teachers, providing tax incentives to accelerate new school construction or renovation and investing more in education technology.

Myth: **The E-rate is paying for things that weren't intended by Congress like painting walls, replacing carpet, and putting in new computers.**

Reality: The E-rate does not cover painting, carpeting or computers. No money has gone to any school to pay for any ineligible services. In fact, this is premature speculation since no school has received any money yet under this new program. The Schools and Library Corporation is conducting a meticulous examination of requests to ensure that only valid applications that adhere to all requirements receive funding.

Myth: **This government program is having the effect of bringing unbridled pornography into every child's classroom in the country.**

Reality: The Administration believes it is critically important that schools and libraries protect children from inappropriate material on the Internet. The Administration strongly supports Senate passage of legislation that would require every school and library that receives assistance from this program to certify that it has

developed a plan to protect schoolchildren from inappropriate Internet content.

Myth: **The E-Rate is administered by a giant bureaucracy headed by someone paid as much as the President. The General Accounting Office declared its structure illegal.**

Reality:

- The Schools and Libraries corporation is not a giant bureaucracy. There are a total of 14 people on its staff.
- Before a single dime has gone to a single school, the FCC has put this program on solid footing by taking steps to further streamline the structure of the organization. The schools and libraries corporation is soon to be merged into the Universal Service Administrative Company which will administer assistance for schools and libraries as well as rural health care providers, and high cost subscribers. This change will occur on January 1.
- The salary for CEO of the Schools and Libraries Corporation was originally set by the schools and libraries corporation board to be comparable with a national non-profit. When the schools and libraries corporation structure is changed in January the position's salary will be reduced to \$151,000.

Myth: **A Tennessee contract was awarded to a friend of the governor's even though there was a bidder that was millions of dollars lower**

Reality:

- The FCC and the Schools and Library Corporation have a dispute resolution process in place to deal with cases such as this. This case is being appealed, the concerns will be heard, and no e-rate discounts will be allocated until the issue is resolved. It is inappropriate to speculate about the connection that Republican Governor Sundquist's relationship with the contractor might have played.
- No e-rate discounts have been spent. Meticulous examination of requests is taking place to ensure that only valid applications that adhere to all requirements receive funding.

Myth: **Schools are like "pigs in a trough" taking this public giveaway.**

Reality:

In order to receive discounts, eligible entities must certify that 1) they have technology assessment and plan for how they will use discounted services; 2) that such plan has been approved by their state agency (in addition to having an authorized signature from a local entity); 3) that they provide a description of

services sought. This is not a free ride for schools and libraries. Each school and library applying for its E-Rate discount must pay a portion -- as much as 80% -- of the total cost of the discounted service.

Myth: People in poor neighborhoods are paying more on their phone bills to connect rich private schools that don't need subsidies.

Reality: Wrong. First, no one is paying more on their phone bills. Second, only two tenths of one percent of funds applied for under the E-rate would go to rich schools. The richest of all private schools, those with endowments of \$50 million or more, do not qualify for the E-rate.

Myth: There are ways to accomplish the same goal of wiring schools through the regular Congressional appropriations process.

Reality: Although there have been several proposals put forward, there are not proposals that have a real funding proposals.,.,.,.

BACKGROUND:

Access to the basic tools of the information age is no longer a luxury for our children. It is a necessity.

Today communications and information technology are transforming our economy and our society, changing the way we live, the way we work and the way we relate to one another. In recent years, information technology has been responsible for more than one-quarter of real economic growth. Jobs in information technology pay significantly more than non-technology jobs. By the year 2000, 60% of all jobs will require the technology skills that only a fraction of Americans now have.

That's why the President and Vice President have worked so hard to enable all of our schools and libraries to have affordable access to telecommunications and information technology. The E-Rate program gives crucial discounts to schools and libraries, with the steepest discounts going to the neediest communities. Through this tailored program, the Administration is committed to helping ensure that all children--regardless of race, income or geography--can have an equal chance to learn and succeed.

Without such help, technology is yet one more hurdle for poor and rural communities struggling to keep up with richer ones. Already, America is sharply divided between those with access to computers and the Internet and those without it. Only 13% of classrooms in schools with a high percentage of minority students are connected to the Internet, compared with 27% of classrooms overall.

Key Elements of the E-Rate include:

- The E-Rate provides discounts annually for public and private K-12 schools and libraries.
- All commercially available telecommunications services are eligible for discounts.
- Internet access for schools and libraries is subject to the discounts.
- Internal wiring or networking is included and subject to discounts.
- Computers, software, teacher training are not covered by the E-rate but by other administration programs.
- Discounts ranging from 20%--to--90% on a sliding-scale formula. The level of discounts for schools are determined by a combination of two factors -- percentage of students eligible for Free or Reduced Priced Lunch and geographic location.
- The average discount will be about 60% and one-third of all schools will receive discounts of 80%--to--90%.

THE E-RATE: WHAT'S AT STAKE

"I say we cannot afford not to have an e-rate. Thousands of poor schools and libraries and rural health centers are in desperate need of discounts. If we really believed that we all belong in the Information Age, then, at this sunlit moment of prosperity, we can't leave anyone behind in the dark."

-- President Clinton, June 5, 1998

- In 1996, as part of the Telecommunications Act, the Congress recognized the importance of connecting schools, libraries, and rural health centers to the Internet and other telecommunications services. This builds on an idea that is more than 60 years old -- the idea that all Americans should have affordable phone service.
- The FCC implemented the Act by working with a bipartisan group of state telecommunications officials to create a system of discounts -- an "e-rate" -- ranging from 20 percent for wealthy schools and libraries to 90 percent for the poorest schools and libraries that need it most.
- These discounts are absolutely essential to ensure that all of our children have an opportunity to participate in the Information Age. Currently, only 27 percent of classrooms are connected to the Internet. Similarly, poor schools are more than 2 ½ times less likely to have Internet access in classrooms than wealthy schools (14 percent of classrooms vs. 36 percent).
- Our children need high-tech skills to compete for the high-wage jobs that our economy is creating in record numbers. In 1996, information technology workers received an average annual wage of \$46,000 - compared to a private sector average of \$28,000.
- Numerous studies have shown that technology in the classroom is effective. For example, a report by the RAND Corporation concluded "Numerous studies of a wide variety of specific applications technology show improvements in student performance, student motivation, teacher satisfaction, and other important educational outcomes."
- Already, over 30,000 applications from schools and libraries have been filed. Schools and libraries have developed technology plans, raised matching funds, and counted on these discounts for their budgets. To delay or eliminate the program would be unconscionable.
- To suggest that America cannot afford these discounts is absurd. Already, long-distance companies have benefited from reductions in access charges (the fees they pay local telephone companies to begin and end phone calls) that exceed the funding required for the e-rate. Even if phone companies insisted on recovering the cost of universal service -- this could be done for less than a dollar per month, with roughly 25 cents going to support schools, libraries, and rural health centers.



Want to know what
the top CEO's made last year?

June 12, 1998

Keep Internet Funding for Schools

With the Internet becoming increasingly important in commerce and education, the Federal Government should be redoubling its efforts to help disadvantaged communities get on line. Instead, some in Congress want to pull the plug on a modest program that is critical for thousands of schools and libraries around the nation that cannot afford to pay for Internet access on their own.

The "e-rate" program, created by the 1996 Telecommunications Act, provides subsidies to poor schools and libraries to pay for wiring and telephone costs. The cost of computers, software and teacher training are not covered. Most of the funding comes from big long-distance companies that pushed for passage of the act, which allowed them to pursue new lines of business. Now those companies are pressuring Congress and the Federal Communications Commission, which administers the program, to cut the subsidies.

More than 30,000 schools and libraries have applied for subsidies totaling \$2.02 billion, an amount less than the annual spending limit of \$2.25 billion set by the F.C.C. So far only \$625 million has been collected for the first half of the year. Today the F.C.C. is expected to decide whether to collect \$1.3 billion in the second half of the year, as planned. Any significant reduction would be irresponsible given the needs of schools and libraries.

The political pressure on the F.C.C. has been intense, with opponents deploying several different arguments. Congressional critics warn that e-rate collections will cause long-distance companies to raise their rates.

The carriers, by putting a separate e-rate charge on telephone bills, are threatening to pass the cost on to consumers, when in fact they should be absorbing that cost. House Speaker Newt Gingrich plays to that strategy by labeling the e-rate subsidy a "tax."

The e-rate program is a public obligation that the carriers agreed to and are required to finance under the 1996 law because they stand to reap enormous financial benefits from deregulation. Access charges that long-distance companies pay to local phone companies have been cut significantly as a direct result of the 1996 act. Should the F.C.C. decide to trim the program, it will be capitulating to company greed at the expense of communities all over the

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
(Monterey, California)

For Immediate Release

June 12, 1998

**STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT
FCC Decision on the E-rate**

I applaud the decision by the Federal Communications Commission to move forward with the "e-rate" -- a critical initiative to connect our schools, libraries, and rural health centers to the Internet. Although I had urged that the e-rate be fully funded, I remain committed to the goal of ensuring that every child has access to the tools they need to compete in the 21st Century.

The e-rate will help create opportunity in the Information Age for children and communities all over America. Together with our Technology Literacy Challenge Fund, the e-rate will ensure that for the first time in our Nation's history, a child in the most isolated inner city or rural town will have access to the same universe of knowledge as a child in the most affluent suburb. Parents will be able to communicate more frequently with teachers, and keep up with the progress of their child in school. Our children will be "technologically literate" -- and better prepared for the high-tech, high-wage jobs our economy is creating in record numbers.

I call upon all members of Congress to support the FCC's decision. I will steadfastly oppose any effort to pull the plug on the e-rate and our children's future -- or to thwart the FCC's ability to move forward with this initiative.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Vice President

**For immediate release:
Friday, June 12, 1998**

**Contact:
(202) 456-7035**

STATEMENT OF VICE PRESIDENT GORE

ON THE E-RATE

Later today, the Federal Communications Commission will cast a critical vote on the E-Rate -- deciding whether to give all our children the tools to succeed in the 21st Century, or shut the door on the future they deserve. I believe the FCC should embrace the E-Rate program. That would be a vote for a 21st Century education, for all our children.

Of course, even if the FCC supports this critical initiative, we know that some in Congress will still try to end it -- as soon as next week. That's just wrong. How can we lead in the Information Age with an approach to education that's stuck in the stone age? So let me be clear: we will fight any effort by Congress to end the E-Rate. It's time to put more of our children on-line -- and that means taking politics off-line. Our commitment to this initiative will not end until we put 21st Century educational technology in every classroom and library in America.

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June 12, 1998

July 7, 1998

RECOMMENDED PHONE CALL

TO: **Representative John Dingell**

RECOMMENDED BY: Ron Klain
Jim Kohlenberger

PURPOSE: You are calling John Dingell about the E-rate. The goals for the call are to 1) establish a good dialogue with Dingell on the E-Rate, 2) highlight the role that Dingell has already played in moving the FCC to fix the program, and 3) ensure that if this turns into a partisan fight, that Dingell doesn't end up in the Gingrich camp (Dingell is rumored to be working on an E-Rate bill similar to one that Gingrich is supporting).

BACKGROUND: Over the last several months John Dingell has been outspoken against the E-rate. For instance in Time magazine he said, "*We did not vote to have the FCC set up a giant bureaucracy headed by someone paid as much as the President. The era of Kings in the country ended when we kicked out George III.*" The week before you presented John Dingell with an award at the race for the cure, he wrote to Bill Kennard calling the program "asinine." He also joined the 3 other ranking members of the Authorizing committee to call for the suspension of the program.

Dingell's real issue is with Bill Kennard. Dingell was very upset about Bill's position on Free TV time. Dingell believes only the Congress has the authority on Free TV time. Similarly, he believes that the FCC overstepped its authority on the E-rate.

However, since Dingell's harsh comments on the e-rate, the FCC has taken a number of steps to put the E-rate program on a solid footing before a single dime has been spent.

The FCC has responded to Dingell's concerns :

- 1) **Corporation Status.** Dingell believes that the FCC, in creating the Schools and Library Corporation, overstepped its authority.

FCC Response. Bill Kennard has directed the two corporations (Schools and Libraries, Rural Healthcare) to submit a proposal for consolidation which he received on Thursday of last week. Kennard will act quickly on the reorganization plan.

- 2) **CEO Salary.** He believes the CEO's salary is exorbitant.

FCC Response. The FCC has adopted an order to reduce the CEO salary - even though current salaries are in line with CEO salaries of similar non-profits.

- 3) **Inside Wiring.** He believes that the Telecommunications Act never called for inside wiring and believes the FCC overstepped its authority.

FCC Response. Even though the Telecommunications Act specifically says "classrooms", the reduced the size of the program from \$2.25 billion this year to \$1.3 billion by ensuring that the inside wiring goes to only the poorest schools first.

TOPICS OF DISCUSSION: Talking Points Attached.

CONTACT PERSON AND
TELEPHONE NUMBER(S): Marda Robillard, COS, 225-4071

DATE OF SUBMISSION: July 7, 1998

ACTION:

Rep. Dingell will celebrate his 72nd birthday this Wednesday, July 8.

BIO INFO

Born: July 8, 1926; Colorado Springs, Colo.

Education: Georgetown U., B.S. 1949, J.D. 1952.

Military Service: Army, 1944-46.

Occupation: Lawyer.

Family: Wife, Deborah Insley; 4 children.

Religion: Roman Catholic.

Political Career: Wayne County assistant prosecutor, 1953-55.

Committee Assignments: Commerce (ranking member)

Leadership Positions & Party Committee Assignments: Steering Committee,

1996 Dingell Re-Election Vote: 62%

1996 C/G Vote in District: 44%

Talking Points

- I understand you have a birthday tomorrow-- Happy Birthday.
- I'm calling to check in with you on the e-rate. So many things are happening that I want to make sure that you and I have a continuing dialogue on the issue.
- I know you aren't a fan of the way the FCC has administered the E-rate program. But I want to ensure that this program moves forward.
- You've had a big impact on the issue. Since you wrote to the FCC and ask that the program be suspended, the FCC has finally responded by putting the e-rate on a solid footing before a single dime has gone to a single school.
- More specifically, the FCC has:
 - ✓ reduced the CEO's salary
 - ✓ consolidated the corporations that oversee the program
 - ✓ limited the inside wiring to cover only the poorest schools
 - ✓ made clear that no money will be spent on services not covered by the e-rate by ordering an independent audit of applications to ensure that only eligible services are funded (some have suggested that carpeting, painting, and drywall would be covered)
 - ✓ reduced the program size from \$2.25 billion a year to \$1.3 billion a year
 - ✓ in return AT&T decided to eliminate their 5% charge on the bill, replace it with a 93 cent charge -- of which only 19 cents is for schools and libraries.
- Taken together, I think these comprehensive reforms allow us to take these other management issues off the table so we can get to the real debate here -- whether or not we will give all of our children the tools they need to compete in the 21st Century.
- The debate is shaping up, with Newt Gingrich leading the charge in the House to roll back the E-rate. He is proposing using an existing excise tax on phone bills to pay for a new program at a different agency. That all sounds good. But in the end, his proposal leads to two separate charges on phone bills, one for Universal Service and a second for the redirected excise tax. He has to come up with \$25 billion in offsets -- a task that you and I know is difficult if not impossible. Its not a real solution that could lead to the 30,000 schools that have applied for the e-rate holding the bag.
- I feel like the FCC has listened to you and taken these issues off the table. Now that Gingrich has laid down the gauntlet I believe that this is a winnable issue for us. Do you agree?

July 13, 1998

MEMORANDUM FOR THE VICE PRESIDENT

FROM: JIM KOHLENBERGER
SUBJECT: E-RATE UPDATE

Over the last several months, we have successfully staved off efforts by some members of Congress to derail your effort to connect schools and libraries to the Internet through the E-rate. These members took advantage of the decision by long distance companies to include new Universal Service Charges on their phone bills (of which only a portion are attributable to the new E-Rate), to attack the program.

The FCC has taken steps recently to take a number of issues off the table that have gotten in the way of having a real debate over the merits of connecting children to the Internet.

Specifically the FCC has:

- ✓ reduced the CEO's salary
- ✓ consolidated the corporations that oversee the program
- ✓ limited the inside wiring to cover only the poorest schools
- ✓ made clear that no money will be spent on services not covered by the e-rate by ordering an independent audit of applications to ensure that only eligible services are funded (some have suggested that carpeting, painting, and drywall would be covered)
- ✓ reduced the program size from \$2.25 billion a year to \$1.3 billion a year
- ✓ in return AT&T decided to eliminate their 5% charge on the bill, replace it with a 93 cent charge -- of which only 19 cents is for schools and libraries.

Congressional Response:

These reforms, taken together, have helped us to slow efforts to stop the program through the appropriations process. Now for instance, Newt Gingrich, who had said he wanted to stop the program entirely, is now proposing to use an existing excise tax on phone bills to pay for a new \$2.25 billion program at a different agency. While his proposal has some problems, the fact that he is offering an alternative could be read as a sign that the debate has started to turn. Nonetheless, we face a number of short term Congressional hurdles on the E-rate mentioned below.

Time line going forward:

- Empowerment Zone Conference, 7/15. This is the day that the House is likely to either defund the E-Rate through appropriations, or replace it with an alternative. Unless the alternative is workable and fully-funded (this is highly unlikely), you have the opportunity to strongly criticize this upcoming move earlier in the day during your EZ speech.

- **NAACP Convention, 7/16.** Following the 7/15 House action, this is the day the Senate Commerce Committee is expected to hear testimony from GAO and attack the E-Rate as a boondoggle which pays for carpets, etc. On this day, you have the opportunity to strongly push back at the E-Rate's GOP critics (they are trying to block our efforts to wire all classrooms, close the digital divide).
- **Mid- to late-Summer.** We will work during this period to reach out to regional press and editorial writers, and also to local educational and advocacy groups, to influence grassroots opinion.
- **Early September, on the road.** Assuming we win the legislative fight, in late September you and the President can push a button to electronically notify the 30,000 winners across the country who will receive \$1.9 billion to connect schools and libraries to the Internet. We would then recommend that as you travel around the country, you visit several of these schools on a back-to-school E-Rate tour -- to claim victory for the E-Rate and our overall initiative, and cast it in educational terms.

While much has been accomplished, there is still much to do. We have an inter-agency working group specifically on the E-Rate which is working closely with the Hill, the Dept of Education, the education and advocacy groups (they have form a coalition called EdLine just to support the E-rate), and the private sector who understands the benefits of an educated work force, to get out the message. Together they have helped build stronger congressional support (137 House members have signed onto letters supporting the E-rate), helped to generate a collection of positive editorials across the country, launched a web site to "Save the E-Rate" which has generated tens of thousands of e-mails, and fostered strong grassroots support.

Attached is a summary listing of all of the action that has taken place in the last couple of months on the E-Rate.

Summary of E-Rate Actions

Senate

Press Conferences:

Kennedy/Riley/Snowe/Kerry/Blumenauer/Rush Press Conference (6/5/98)

Letters:

Kennedy letter to FCC with signatures from 34 democratic Members (6/10/98)

Kennedy-Santorum letter to the editor (unpublished) (6/5/98)

Kerrey letter to Kennard (6/4/98)

Dorgan-Daschle inquiry to Kennard (6/1/98)

Briefings:

Kennedy/Riley/Snowe/Kerry briefing for ED Groups (6/5/98)

Floor Statements:

Moseley-Braun "E-Rate" (6/11/98)

Daschle "Saving the E-Rate" (6/10/98)

Documents:

Bumpers/Rockefeller distribute state-by-state access/applicant data (July 1998)

Rockefeller Background Packet (6/18/98)

House

Bills:

H.R. 4018 (Blumenauer Bill) -- Truth-in-Billing; 23 co-sponsors (6/19/98)

H.R. 4032 (Sensenbrenner Bill) -- repeals Schools and Libraries program

H.R. 4065 (Scarborough Bill) -- suspends contributions to the USF for schools and Libraries, prohibits telecoms from placing line items on phone bills, does not require discounted rates for schools and libraries, and allows already collected funds to be distributed; 22 co-sponsors (6/18/98)

H.R. 4096 (Gekas Bill) -- Taxpayer's Defense Act: Bans federal agencies from setting or increasing any tax.

Tauzin Proposed Legislation:

Eliminates the Universal Service Fund for Schools and Libraries and cuts an existing excise tax in half and uses to remainder to pay for the E-Rate which would be run by the Department of Education.

Letters:

Dingell Letter to Kennard (6/4/98)

Press Releases/Conferences:

Rush, Guttierrez, Owens, Lofgren, Pasarel Press Conference (6/24)
Rush Media Advisory (6/23/98)
Hispanic and Black Caucus Press Conference with Secretary Riley/Members (6/10/98)
Reyes Press Release (6/10/98)
Blumenauer Media Advisory (6/5/98)
Blumenauer Press Release (5/8/98)

Dear Colleague Letters (represents 137 Members):

Lofgren Dear Colleague on San Jose Mercury Editorial (7/3/98)
Maloney Dear Colleague (6/22/98)
Blumenauer Dear Colleague re: Gore Tax (6/18/98)
Gutierrez Dear Colleague on Molly Ivins editorial (6/17/98)
DeLauro, Blumenauer, Lofgren Dear Colleague (6/17/98)
Blumenauer Dear Colleague re: hold on the E-Rate (6/16/98)
Blumenauer Dear Colleague re: Post Editorial on E-Rate (6/12/98)
Blumenauer (6/11/98)
Blumenauer Dear Colleague re: Truth in Billing Legislation (6/10/98)
Dooley / Lofgren letter to Kennard w/ 72 signatures (6/9/98)
Baldacci Dear Colleague (6/8/98)
Rush (6/5/98)
Blumenauer Dear Colleague re: Phone company surcharges (6/4/98)
Farr Dear Colleague (5/22/98)
Baldacci Dear Colleague (5/21/98)
Blumenauer Dear Colleague re: District Work Period (5/21/98)
Blumenauer Dear Colleague re: "Don't Pull the Plug" Ad (5/12/98)
Blumenauer Dear Colleague re: 30,000 E-Rate Applications (5/6/98)
Blumenauer Letter signed by 102 Members to Kennard (3/27/98)

Briefings/Meetings:

Rush hosts Strategy Meeting (6/23/98)
Blumenauer/FCC/Education/Education groups strategy session (6/18/98)
Meeting in third Congressional district, Oregon on E-Rate (5/27/98)
Members meeting / discussion with groups on E-Rate (5/21/98)
Blumenauer Staff Briefing / Discussion with FCC and Ed on E-Rate (5/20/98)

Floor Statements:

Blumenauer "Bringing our Education System into the 21st Century" (6/16/98)
Owens "Protect the E-Rate for America's Children" (6/16/98)
Blumenauer "E-Rate/Truth in Billing" (6/9/98)
Blumenauer "The Importance of the E-Rate" (6/5/98)
Ford "E-Rate and Information Technology" (6/5/98)
Blumenauer "The E-Rate" (3/12/98)

Letters:

- Rush letter to President w/ 65 signatures (6/5/98)
- Delegates letter to Chairman Kennard (5/22/98)

Upcoming:

- 7/15: Congressman Rush is coordinating with Congressman DeLauro to have one-minutes dedicated to the E-Rate
- 7/15: House Committee on Appropriations Mark-Up
- 7/15: E-Rate Lobby Day
- 7/16: Senate Commerce Committee Hearing on GAO Report
- 7/16: Roll Call Technology Insert (Blumenauer is writing an article for the Insert)
- 7/20: Congressman Rush is proposing an E-Rate Week with a variety of events that may include rallies, press conferences, school visits.
- July: Netscape Home Page being dedicated to E-Rate (with Lofgren editorial)

EDUCATION

Briefings:

- ED/OVP/NEC briefing for ED groups (NSBA, ALA, NEA and others) (6/25/98)
- ED/DOC/USDA/NEC/OVP/Blumenauer/Rockefeller/Kennedy/Daschle E-Rate Message meeting (6/24/98)
- ED briefing for civil rights Groups (AFL-CIO, NCLR, MALDF, LULAC, AAUW, NCSL, AALDF, ASPIRA, NABE, NAACP) (6/24/98)
- ED/Blumenauer briefs Skaggs/Dixon staff (6/22/98)
- ED/FCC/Rockefeller briefs Bumpers, Lautenberg, Mikulski (6/19/98)
- ED briefs Assistant Secretary Moreno and Sarita Brown in preparation for participation at the Hispanic Elected Officials Conference in Houston (6/18/98)
- ED briefs ED groups (6/18)
- ED/FCC briefs House Education democrats (6/15/98)
- ED briefs Hispanic/Mayoral/Governor leadership (6/8/98)
- ED briefs EDLINC (6/3/98)

Documents:

- Identification of clips discussing educational/budgetary impact on reduced/eliminated E-Rate discounts (7/7/98)
- Community Update Article on E-Rate and Equity (circ. 250,000+) (7/98)
- ED letter to GAO disputing ability of ED to efficiently implement the E-Rate discounts (6/22)
- Secretary Riley's letter to the Editor (6/15/98)
- Secretary Riley's statement on the FCC vote (6/12/98)
- Note to Editors distributed nationwide in preparation for FCC vote (6/11/98)
- Secretary Riley's Remarks for the E-Rate Press Conference (6/10/98)

Riley letter to GAO refuting the availability of \$10 billion for telecommunications across the federal government (6/10/98)
FCC Hearing Summary (6/10/98)
Instruction Sheet on Searching the SLC applicant database (6/10/98)
Education 2-page Fact Sheet (6/9/98)
EDINFO message on E-Rate distributed on email to 12,000+ subscribers (6/9/98)
Riley/Daley/Glickman/Shalala letter to FCC (6/8/98)
Secretary Riley Press Release (6/4/98)
Secretary Riley's letter to the FCC in response to the Public Notice (5/22/98)
State-by-state applicant lists distributed to all Members (4/29/98)
Community Update Article (circ. 250,000+) (3/98)
NCES Internet Access in Public Schools (2/98)

Secretary Riley Meetings:

Jonathan Sallet, MCI
Bill Kennard, FCC

Secretary Riley Phone Calls:

Senator Hollings
Congressman Bumpers
Senator Rockefeller
Chairman Kennard
Tom Martin, Vice President, MCI

EDUCATION GROUPS

EDLINC:

Member/staff meetings
FCC meetings
Response to Glassman article (6/3/98)
Distributed the following to their membership--Secretary's statement, VP's statement, Education 2 Pager, Kennedy/Santorum OpEd, and Riley OpEd.

NEA:

Press Release criticizing FCC decision (6/12/98)
Chase letter to Commerce Committee Members (6/9/98)
Press Release criticizing AT&T and MCI (6/5/98)

SAVE THE E-RATE NOW:

Roll Call Ad (7/16/98)
Press Release announcing 10,000 emails to FCC, Congress and telecommunications companies (5/28/98)
Alert to 30,000 database (5/26/98)
Roll Call Ad, "Don't Pull the Plug on America's Children"

Press Release announcing the launch of a high-tech "Save the E-Rate Campaign" which has resulted in 20,000 emails to Members, telecommunications companies and the FCC (5/7/98)
Creation of Save the E-Rate Web Site
Upcoming: Roll Call Save the E-Rate advertisement (6/16/98)

Council of Great City Schools:

E-Mail to Senate Appropriations Members requesting support for E-Rate (6/16/98)
The Council of the Great City Schools and the Rev. Jesse Jackson held a press conference in New York City today at P.S. 46 to reiterate the groups' support for the e-rate program and to call on Congress, AT&T and MCI to let the program go forward. (6/15/98)
Press Release praising FCC decision (6/12/98)
Media Advisory on anticipated FCC vote (6/12/98)
Press Release criticizing the telecommunications industry (6/10/98)
Press Release demonstrating CGCS/Rev. Jesse Jackson in support of E-Rate (6/5/98)
Quick Response Survey by CGCS (Value of Discounts, Monthly Bill, Long Distance Provider)
Press Release (6/4/98)

ΔΔΔΔ:

Press Release requesting calls to Congress (6/8/98)

Software Publishers Association:

Letter to education publishers (950) (6/8/98)
Letter to Kennard and Senate Commerce Committee Members (6/8/98)

NECC:

Petition in Support of E-Rate (1,674 signatures) delivered to Congress (6/25/98)

Family Education Network:

In partnership with the SLC, FEN hosted an online town meeting with parent to find out their thoughts about the role of technology in education (June 24-July 1)

Upcoming:

ED Groups are considering preparing informational E-Rate inserts for school handbooks to be distributed when children return to school (8-9/98)

INDUSTRY

Letters:

3 Com Letter to FCC (5/22/98)
Genetech Letter
Cisco Letter

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Vice President

For Immediate Release:
Tuesday, July 28, 1998

Contact:
(202) 456-7035

STATEMENT BY VICE PRESIDENT GORE
ON DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE REPORT ABOUT
THE GROWING DIGITAL DIVIDE

Three months ago, I called on the Department of Commerce to conduct a thorough analysis of Internet and computer usage in America. Today, Commerce Secretary Daley released a report on these trends -- and the findings are troubling.

The data shows that, although many more Americans now own computers, minorities and low-income households are still far less likely to have personal computers or on-line access to the Internet than white or more affluent households. And even more alarming, today's study reveals that this "digital divide" between households of different races and income levels is growing.

These findings underscore the absolute necessity for programs, such as the E-Rate, that reach out to communities that otherwise lack electronic resources. Under the E-Rate, schools and libraries receive discounts of 20 to 90 percent on telecommunications services, internal connections, and Internet access -- with the deepest discounts going to the poorest urban and rural schools.

In short, the E-Rate program will enable all of our children to mine the riches of our electronic resources, giving them the skills they need to compete in our increasingly high-tech economy.

The E-Rate is one of our most powerful tools to bridge the digital divide because it can help us ensure that, for the first time in our nation's history, a child in the most isolated inner city or rural town will have access to the same universe of knowledge as a child in the most affluent suburb.

Now is the time to bridge the digital divide, prevent those who can benefit the most from falling through the net, and move forward with the E-Rate so that all our children have access to the tools they need to succeed in the 21st century, regardless of race, income, or location.

###

Forum on 21st Century Schools

HiQ Computer Assembly Plant and Teacher Training Facility
2:30 - 3:45 pm, Friday October 9th, 1998

Briefing prepared by Jim Kohlenberger

EVENT

You are leading discussion on Teacher Training in Technology at the HiQ Computer Assembly Plant and Teacher Training Facility and highlight Boston as an example in bringing technology in the classroom for the rest of the country.

This event allows you to highlight:

- 1) how Boston has responded to your challenge to connect classrooms to the Internet by the year 2000 by becoming among the first of the large urban school systems in the country to be completely wired, networked and connected to the Internet.
- 2) the importance of teacher training in computer learning using the HiQ facility as an example of how Boston is helping train teachers.
- 3) how we included money in our budget to make sure that teachers are trained to use technology and challenging Congress to act on that request and ensure that teachers across the country can use technology in the classroom as easily as they use the chalkboard today.

LOGISTICS (As of this writing, subject to change)

- Off-stage announcement of the Vice President, accompanied by Mayor Menino
- The Vice President makes remarks
- The Vice President opens and moderates the Issues Forum
- The Vice President closes the Issues Forum and departs

YOUR ROLE/CONTRIBUTION

- This is an opportunity to recognize the work that Mayor Menino and the city of Boston have done to wire the nation's classrooms, to highlight the importance of teacher training to the success of bringing technology into the classroom. Additionally, you are calling on Congress to fund our teacher technology training request and give teachers across the country the kind of teacher training that they are getting here at HiQ.

PROGRAM NOTES

- **Boston responded to your challenge to connect Classrooms to the Internet.** After you laid out your challenge for governments, parents, unions, teachers, and the private sector to help in your vision to connect every classroom to the Internet by the year 2000, Mayor Menino answered your challenge and has helped to make Boston one of the first large urban schools districts to be networked to the Internet. This month, all 128 schools will have a network with at least 90 computer connections to the network and high-speed access (T-1 frame relay lines) to the Internet.
- **Boston Built Upon Administration Initiatives that you launched.** Mayor Menino built on several of the federal programs and public private initiatives we launched. For instance, Boston has received more than \$6 million in grants from two federal educational technology initiatives that you first launched; Massachusetts has held 3 successful Netdays including 900 schools; the HiQ Training facility is putting together computers for the Boston schools based on 9,000 Intel motherboards donated as a result of your Corporate Commission on Educational Technology, and they will probably receive \$40 million from the E-Rate. This is a great example of how every sector came together to answer your challenge.
- **This Year We Made Teacher Training an Important Component of Our Budget.** That is why, in this years budget, we made a new commitment to teacher training to ensure that all new teachers entering the workforce can use technology effectively in the classroom and that there is at least one teacher who can serve as a technology expert in every school to help other teachers. Part of that effort included a new \$75 million technology teacher training effort in our budget.
- **New Research Shows the Importance of Teacher Training.** A new study released in just the last few weeks reinforces what we knew all along -- that teacher training combined with educational technology can help student learning. The study showed that in the 8th grade, students that used computers for "higher-order" skills (simulation of real-world experiences, applications) scored higher by two-fifths of a grade level. Students who didn't have well trained teachers were more likely to use technology for drill and practice which does not lead to better scores.
- **At HiQ Teachers Are Getting Trained, and Computers Built for Boston's Schools.** In Boston they have known all along what Congress has ignored and what recent data supports -- that teacher training is critical to computer learning. The HiQ computer assembly and teacher training facility that you will see is a great example of how Boston and a private sector commitment have come together to make sure that Boston teachers have the skills they need to make the most of computers in the classrooms. HiQ is a local computer manufacturer who is building computers for the Boston schools (and others); moved to the Empowerment Zone in Boston; is donating \$1 million worth of teacher training and troubleshooting assistance for teachers; and hiring EZ residents. HiQ is a great example of corporate responsibility in teacher training, but we can't expect the

private sector to do the same in every region of the country. We have to ensure that all teachers who have technology in the classroom have the training they need.

- **Unfortunately, Congress Has Failed to Fund Teacher Training.** Unfortunately congressional action to date on the Department of Education's FY99 appropriations would slow progress in putting computers in the classroom and would deny our nation's children the opportunity to learn in a world-class environment and ensure that they have the tools to compete in the 21st Century. The bill denies funding to 400 school districts to provide students and teachers with access to computers, training, and the latest educational software and telecommunications technology to improve teaching and learning in the core subjects. In addition the bill denies specialized technology training to a large number of new teachers by eliminating the President's request for \$75 million in technology teacher training. In fact, both the House and Senate have funded this new initiative at zero. This event allows you to call on Congress to fund our teacher technology training request and give teachers across the country the kind of teacher training that they are getting here at HiQ.

ATTACHMENTS

- Administration Efforts that Have Helped Boston
- Boston's EdTech initiative
- HiQ Computer Assembly and Teacher Training Facility
- The Importance of Teacher training
- Introductory talking points

Administration Efforts Helping Boston Bring Technology to Schools

After you and the President first set the goal of connecting every classroom to the Internet by the year 2000 Boston, under the leadership of Mayor Menino, answered your challenge and is now ready to say that they are the first large urban schools district to have connected all of its schools. Boston has taken advantage of the programs and initiatives that you have helped to put in place to accomplish this goal.

- ✓ **Direct Federal Assistance.** Boston received direct federal assistance to help get its schools connected through two programs that you helped to create and unveil. First, Boston received nearly \$500,000 from the Technology Literacy Challenge Fund -- the five-year, \$2 billion fund that helps schools fully integrate technology into teaching and learning. Second, Boston has also received a \$6.1 million 5 year grant from the Administration's "Technology Learning Challenge," to develop innovative and creative new ways to use technology for learning.
- ✓ **\$40 million in E-Rate discounts.** As a result of the E-Rate, over the next four years all 128 of Boston Schools will benefit from \$40 million in E-Rate discounts. This year Boston Schools will receive \$5 million in discounts for school networking.
- ✓ **3 NetDays connecting more than 900 Massachusetts schools.** After you and the President launched the first Netday, Massachusetts has had three very successful NetDays; with over 900 schools participating, and more than 19,000 volunteers. Massachusetts businesses have provided nearly \$25 million worth of donated products and services to schools for NetDay. On the next NetDay at the end of this month, Boston plans to unveil a technology assessment model to measure how computers improve teaching and learning in the classroom. Members of IBEW Local 103 pledged to provide wire for every school in the city of Boston and other volunteers will help with terminations, punch-downs, web-pages and technical support and training.
- ✓ **Taking the TechCorps idea from Boston and making it National.** You've also taken a few of Boston's ideas and launched them nationally. For instance in 1995, you and the President launched the U.S. Tech Corps, a national non-profit organization dedicated to helping schools use technology to enhance teaching and learning based on a Boston model. Tech Corps now has chapters in 42 states and the District of Columbia. This volunteer organization enables high-tech workers from the private sector to make a difference in America's schools. In Boston, volunteers train school librarians in on-line research and advise schools on how to meet their long-term technology needs.
- ✓ **Corporate Commission on Educational Technology.** Boston has now received 9,000 Pentium motherboards from Intel worth \$3.5 million as a result of Intel's participation in the Corporate Commission on Educational Technology that you and the President first announced the day after the Vice Presidential debate in 1996. This is part of Intel's 100,000 motherboard donations and their largest gift to any school district in America.

Boston's EdTech Initiative

Boston is among the first of the large urban school systems to be completely wired, networked and connected to the Internet. In addition, the Mayor has set a goal of one computer for every four students by the year 2001 and pledged that every teacher would have a computer and every classroom would have access to the Internet. The Mayor's commitment was affirmed by the Superintendent and School Committee in a five-year \$125 million technology plan called Learning and Information Network for the Community (LINC), subsequently also known as "Kids Compute 2001." The project's objective is improving performance in the classroom and preparing students for the world beyond.

- By October 1st, all 128 schools will have a network with at least 90 computer connections to the network and high-speed access (T-1 frame relay lines) to the Internet.
- The Mayor committed \$50 million in capital money to build out the networks to every classroom and to provide electrical upgrades. Combined with grants, donations and other funding, the total commitment of the project is \$125 million. This is the highest commitment of resources on a per capita basis of any large urban school district in the country.
- The "Kids Compute 2001" project raised over \$26 million through over 100 private- and public-sector partnerships.
- Through the installation of 7,000 networked computers, the ratio of students to computers was reduced from 63:1 to 10:1.
- The project provided fast-track technology training to over 2,500 teachers (over 50% of the 4,800 teachers in the system).

Boston has developed several partnerships between schools and the business community. These public-private partnerships have been invaluable to their success and over the last two years have generated \$25 million.

The HiQ Computer Assembly and Teacher Training Facility

The HiQ computer assembly and teacher training facility that you will see is a great example of how Boston and a private sector commitment have come together to make sure that Boston teachers have the skills they need to make the most of computers in the classrooms. HiQ is a local computer manufacturer who is building computers for the Boston schools (and others); moved to the Empowerment Zone in Boston; is donating \$1 million worth of teacher training and troubleshooting assistance for teachers; and hiring EZ residents. HiQ is a great example of corporate responsibility in teacher training, but we can't expect the private sector to do the same in every region of the country. We have to ensure that all teachers who have technology in the classroom have the training they need.

- HiQ established the first free technology training facility for teachers located in Boston's Empowerment Zone. They have two facilities and three free trainers for three years.
- The Mayor's goal of one computer for every four children and one computer for every teacher requires the purchase of 20,000 computers. HiQ Computers was chosen to supply PCS (PCS comprised two-thirds of the computers purchased in the first two years) and Apple Computer was the other firm selected. Besides a better price, HiQ agreed to open a free training lab with three full-time instructors for three years. The first 4,500 computers were distributed to schools based on a per capita formula. These computers were used to populate labs and media centers so that teachers and students could be trained more easily. Subsequent computers and printers are being distributed directly to teachers to use within their classroom.
- The teachers agree to attend professional development seminars (on their own time), produce various technology products and share their ideas with other teachers. In just 30 months the ratio of students to computers was reduced from 63:1 to 10:1.
- New computers and networks necessitated the delivery of "just-in-time" training to over 2,500 (over 50% of the workforce) educators in just 30 months. The training occurred through innovative weeklong summer institutes and specially designed "train-the-trainer" models. Teachers began integrating technology into lesson plans and thousands of students gained access to the "information superhighway."
- Other companies have helped out as well. Intel Corporation donated \$3.5 million worth of state-of-the-art computer chips that lowered the total cost of each PC by several hundred dollars. These Intel motherboards wouldn't have made it to Boston except for the Corporate Commission on Educational Technology (of which Andy Grove is a member) which you announced in Tennessee with the President the day after your Vice Presidential debate in 1996.
- Other companies have helped with donations include IBM, Microsoft and 3Com.

The Importance of Teacher Training

You have previously made the point that technology needs to be as easy to use for a teacher as a chalkboard is today. That is why the Administration's educational technology FY99 investments place special emphasis on technology training for teachers to help ensure that 1) all new teachers entering the workforce can use technology effectively in the classroom and that 2) there is at least one teacher who can serve as a technology expert in every school to help other teachers.

Our FY99 budget includes 2 educational technology initiatives critical to teacher training:

- **New \$75 Million Teacher Training Initiative.** The budget includes \$75 million to help train all new teachers in use of technology: This program will help ensure that all new teachers entering the workforce can integrate technology effectively in the curriculum, and can understand the new styles of teaching and learning enabled by technology. Currently most colleges of education do not adequately prepare teachers to use educational technology. While many of today's college students are technology literate, incoming teachers require focused training on how to use new technologies to enhance student learning. What separates this program from others is the emphasis on pre-service education and doing something to make sure teachers entering the classrooms are prepared and technology literate. Both the House and Senate have given us zero for this new initiative.
- **Targeting existing efforts toward Teacher Training.** The President's budget included \$475 million for the Technology Literacy Challenge Fund -- an increase of \$50 million over FY98. This year, states will be encouraged to devote at least 30 percent of the funds to provide teachers with the professional development they need to use technology effectively in the classroom.

Congress Has Failed to Fund Teacher Training

Unfortunately congressional action to date on the Department of Education's FY99 appropriations would slow progress in putting computers in the classroom and would deny our nation's children the opportunity to learn in a world-class environment and ensure that they have the tools to compete in the 21st Century. The bill denies funding to 400 school districts to provide students and teachers with access to computers, training, and the latest educational software and telecommunications technology to improve teaching and learning in the core subjects. In addition the bill denies specialized technology training to a large number of new teachers by eliminating the President's request for \$75 million in technology teacher training.

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Vice President

For Immediate Release
Monday, November 23, 1998

Contact:
(202) 456-7035

VICE PRESIDENT GORE ANNOUNCES 47,000 SCHOOLS AND LIBRARIES ACROSS
AMERICA TO RECEIVE FUNDS TO CONNECT OUR CHILDREN TO THE FUTURE

Washington, DC -- Vice President Gore announced today that over the next two months, ^{up to} 40,000 schools and 7,000 libraries will ~~start receiving~~ nearly \$2 billion under the E-rate program to connect to the Internet.

In addition, the Vice President announced that states and local communities will begin receiving a portion of the \$425 million in grants from the Administration's Technology Literacy Challenge Fund, which complements the "E-rate" by allowing local communities to purchase modern computers, train teachers to use technology, and buy high-quality educational software.

"Today, we are moving toward our goal of providing every American access to the information age so they can learn, explore and prepare for the future," Vice President Gore. "The E-rate and the Technology Literacy Challenge Fund will allow our nation to take this giant step forward, improving the education we provide our children."

"Together, we are using our newest tools to support our oldest goals -- helping our students learn by providing them the best education we can," he added.

The "E-rate" program, part of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, provides more than \$1.9 billion in discounts for schools and libraries to purchase high-speed Internet access, internal wiring, and telecommunications services. The program will help bridge the "digital divide" by providing the deepest discounts to the poor and rural schools that need it most.

President Clinton and Vice President Gore believe that progress in all four areas -- Internet access, computers, educational software, and teacher training -- is essential to preparing our children for the 21st Century. As a result of this initiative, 30 million children will be connected to the Internet.

"Today we are taking steps that will forever change the lives of millions of children and change the way teachers teach and children learn," Vice President Gore said. "For the very first time in our history, these new tools are making it possible for a child in the most isolated inner-city neighborhood or rural community to have access to the same world of knowledge at the same instant as a child in the most affluent suburb."

Research shows that technology can be a powerful tool for teaching and learning. Specifically, as a result of new technology, test scores in math are higher, attendance rates have improved, students writing has improved, teachers have better training and parents have become more involved in their children's education.

GETTING AMERICA'S STUDENTS READY FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

Today, we are moving toward our goal of providing every American access to the information age so they can learn, explore and prepare for the future. The E-Rate and the Technology Literacy Challenge Fund will allow our nation to take this giant step forward, improving the education we provide our children. Together, we are using our newest tools to support our oldest goals -- helping our students learn by providing them the best education we can.

Vice President Gore

The E-Rate: Discounted Telecommunications for ALL Schools and Libraries

- Today, Vice President Gore announced the launch of E-Rate discounts which help ensure that the opportunities of the information age are available to all of our children. The E-Rate provides affordable access to advanced telecommunications services – Internet, phone service, and inside wiring to schools and libraries.
- The Vice President announced that in the coming weeks, in multiple waves of application approvals, children in schools and libraries across the country will start benefiting from nearly \$2 billion in assistance from the new E-Rate discounts.

WHAT THE E-RATE WILL MEAN TO AMERICA'S SCHOOLS AND LIBRARIES

- Over the next 2 months, schools and libraries will start receiving \$1.9 billion helping to connect 30 million children in 40,000 public schools across the country to the Internet.
- As part of the first wave of E-Rate application approvals announced today, more than 3,000 E-Rate applications were approved, worth a total of \$73 million. Additional application approvals will be announced in the coming weeks.
- E-Rate applications would directly benefit 64% of all public school districts, 27% of non-public schools and 42% of the libraries throughout the country.
- The E-Rate will help connect 30 million children in 40,000 public schools and nearly half of public libraries across the country.

The Technology Literacy Challenge Fund (TLCF)

- Today, the Vice President also announced \$425 million in Technology Literacy Challenge Fund Grants being provided to the states. These grants represent the third installment of a five-year \$2 billion investment to ensure that students across the country are technologically literate.
- On February 15, 1996, President Clinton and Vice President Gore announced the "Technology Literacy Challenge" which calls on business and community leaders to join forces with educators to guarantee every student in America can use computers and the information superhighway to prepare for responsible citizenship and productive employment in the 21st century. The Technology Literacy Challenge is targeted at four concrete goals:
 1. Equipping all classrooms with modern computers;
 2. Connecting all classrooms to the Internet;
 3. Developing engaging software and content to help all students meet high standards; and
 4. Preparing all teachers to effectively integrate these new technologies into the curriculum.

To: Jim Kohlenberger @ QVP@EOP
cc:
From: Carole_Wacey @ ed.gov@INET@LNGTWY @ EOP
Date: 11/20/98 03:39:00 PM
Subject: Sound Bite

Jim--Here it is...

Over the next year, we will have connected...

Every Classroom in Clarksburg,
Every Library in Lansing,
Every School in Santa Fe,
Every Child in Chatanooga,
Every Teacher in Tallahassee,
Every Parent in Pittsburg,
Every Boy in Boston, and
Every Girl in Greenville.

To: Patricia M. Ewing/OVP, Audrey Choi/OVP, Jim Kohlenberger/OVP, nchoi @
sprintmail.com @ inet
cc:
From: Jeffrey K. Nussbaum/OVP
Date: 11/21/98 07:23:52 PM
Subject: erate revised



ERATE.N2 REMARKS BY VICE PRESIDENT AL GORE
E-RATE ANNOUNCEMENT
Monday, November 23, 1998

Thank you, Laura, for showing all of us why 21st Century education is so important. And I thank all of you for joining us today, as we make a landmark new announcement that will truly make this new Information Age an education age for Laura Thielen [THÉE-len] and for all of our children.

Today, more than ever before, knowledge is the key strategic resource, and learning is the key strategic skill. That is why President Clinton and I have worked so hard to make education our number-one priority: hiring 100,000 highly-trained teachers to reduce class sizes. Fighting to rebuild and modernize our schools. Raising standards for students, teachers, and schools. Working to end the social promotions that only hold back our children. Opening the doors to college wider than ever before.

But we know that if we truly want a 21st Century education for our children, we must move beyond the confines of traditional textbooks and learning, and help our children tap into a vast new world of discovery. That means making sure that our children and their teachers are as comfortable with a keyboard as they are with a chalkboard.

Back when I was in the House of Representatives, before the Internet had been fully developed -- and before Laura was even born -- I used to speak about the day when a young girl from my home ~~town of Exchange~~ ^{State of Tennessee}, Tennessee, could stretch her hand across a keyboard and read any book in the Library of Congress, or see any painting in the world's greatest museums, or hear any symphony ever composed. Even as I spoke those words, it seemed like a fantastic and far-off vision. Today, with the announcement of the first round of E-Rate funding, we take a major step toward making that vision a reality.

Throughout our history, there have been a number of revolutions in education. There was the wood-covered New England Primer in the early 1800's -- the very first American textbook. There was the writing slate, which allowed students to write on their own; and have some control over their individual learning. And in 1836, the first truly national textbook was published -- the McGuffey Reader, which reached hundreds of millions of children. *[hold up reader]* It was the first time every child in America had access to the same universe of

for the first time geared learning to grade levels.

Have limit this to Library of Congress we are going beyond it
can we drop this line?

knowledge.

But now, with the entire store of human knowledge doubling every five years, we know that easily outdated textbooks aren't sufficient to keep up with that change -- or to give our teachers and children the ability to shape the best instruction and learning.

That is why President Clinton and I challenged the nation to connect every classroom and library to the Internet. *And we are making progress.*

And although we have made progress since I first set House!
~~But at the same time~~, affluent schools are almost three times as likely to have Internet access. That is why we fought so hard to pass the E-Rate -- which offers schools and libraries discounts of 20 to 90 percent on Internet hook-ups -- with the biggest discounts going to the *I think* neediest urban and rural schools. Passing the E-Rate was a major, bipartisan achievement for *members* our children. And it is based on a simple premise: we can't allow a single child to miss out on *Congress,* the promise of the Information Age. *not the others*

in their leadership.
Today, we ~~begin to put~~ *are* 21st Century education on-line, all across America. I am proud to announce that over the next two months, schools and libraries across the country will start receiving nearly \$2 billion in E-Rate discounts -- to put the power of 21st Century learning at our children's fingertips. *E-rate will help connect* These ~~grants will go to~~ 30 million children in 40,000 public schools and libraries. I am also pleased to announce \$425 million in new grants from our Technology Literacy Challenge Fund -- to help communities buy modern computers and high-quality educational software -- and to train teachers to use this new technology for the benefit of our children.

And because we are so committed to ensuring that these tools get used to their fullest potential!
~~Today,~~ *bridge* we are providing the Internet access, the software, the hardware, and the teacher training that will revolutionize American education. We know it will make a difference; research shows that educational technology can improve test scores, reduce drop-out rates, and even increase parental involvement in education. And so, with this series of announcements, we are bringing tens of thousands of schools into the Information Age, so our children can seize its full promise and prosperity.

Let's be clear why this is so important. It is about the future of our economy. More and more, young people must expect to earn a living by using their minds. For example, by the year 2000, it is estimated that 60 percent of all new jobs will require some knowledge of math and science. And high-tech jobs pay wages that are 73% higher than the private sector average. Yet today, many leading high-tech companies say they don't have the trained and educated workforce they need to fill those jobs. I want the children with us today at the Martin Luther King Memorial Library to have every chance to do so.

Of course, this is about much more than jobs -- it is about the opportunity for enrichment and enlightenment that have always defined this nation. Just moments ago, I met with children who were using the Internet to dissect a virtual frog and to learn geography. In schools across the country, I have seen the difference computers can make -- taking students

on virtual field trips from the depths of the ocean to the valleys of Mars. Allowing them to read the latest articles and essays on just about any subject they want to study. Strengthening the core skills of reading and math while creating a love of learning that once sparked, keeps burning.

Children are ravenous learners. They don't need to be taught the curiosity and love of discovery that are so essential to educational excellence. They merely need the tools and the well-trained teachers to unlock the doors of discovery, and to show them how much is waiting for them. With the E-Rate, we are opening a virtual floodgate of new learning and knowledge for our children. I know that it will help make our children stronger, better-educated, and better-prepared for the challenges of the 21st Century. Thank you.

librarians

E-Rate Radio Actualities

West Wing Office

10:05 - 10:15 am, Monday November 23rd, 1998

Meeting requested by Larry Haas
Briefing prepared by Jim Kohlenberger

EVENT

You are doing several radio actualities from your West Wing office to amplify today's E-Rate announcement.

TODAY'S ANNOUNCEMENT

Launching the E-Rate. First, you are announcing that over the next 2 months, schools and libraries will start receiving \$1.9 billion helping to connect 30 million children in 40,000 public schools across the country to the Internet. As a part of the first wave of acceptance letters being received this week, more than 3,000 of the 30,000 schools systems and libraries systems across the country that have applied for the E-Rate will begin receiving letters worth a total of \$73 million. E-Rate applications overall cover 64% of public schools districts, 27% of non-public schools, and 42% of libraries throughout the country.

Ensuring Technology Improves Learning. Second, you are announcing that states and local communities will receive \$425 million in grants from the Administration's Technology Literacy Challenge Fund. This fund complements the E-Rate by allowing local communities to purchase modern computers, train teachers to use technology, and buy high-quality educational software. These grants represent the third installment of a five-year \$2 billion investment to ensure that students across the country are technologically literate.

ATTACHMENTS

- State by state script and background

CALIFORNIA

Hello. This is Vice President Al Gore.

Today, I am pleased to announce the official launching of an exciting new program known as the "E-rate" -- a program that can revolutionize learning by connecting our schools and libraries to the Internet.

Here in [California], today's announcement means schools and libraries can receive more than \$310 million, ^{leading the nation} ~~more than any other state~~, connecting more than 5,000 schools to the Internet and giving children all over this state the tools to succeed in the 21st Century.

WHAT THE E-RATE WILL MEAN TO CALIFORNIA'S SCHOOLS AND LIBRARIES

- Today's announcements will help put the future at the fingertips of the millions of California's students and help ensure that California is on track to meet the challenges of the 21st Century.
- California's schools and libraries have applied for more than \$269 million in E-Rate discounts.
- As part of the first wave of E-Rate application approvals announced today, 230 of California's 1,995 E-Rate applications were approved, worth a total of \$9,934,644. Additional application approvals will be announced in the coming weeks.
- California's E-Rate applications would directly benefit 63% of its public school districts, 18% of its non-public schools, and 41% of its libraries throughout the state.
- In California, the E-Rate will help connect 5,269 public schools and more than 3.7 million children.

California has the highest number of technology jobs in the United States. However, it ranks 46 out of 50 states in its computer to student ratio. Amazingly, there are 27 children to only one multimedia computer. California is depending on the \$269.1 million E-Rate fund request.

WHAT THE CLINTON-GORE TECHNOLOGY LITERACY CHALLENGE FUND MEANS TO CALIFORNIA

Fund Allocations:

FY 97 \$20,568,622 · FY 98 \$46,549,397 · FY 99 \$45,942,372

- California used first year TLCF funds to award 25 five-year grants to school districts that serve 40 percent or more low-income students. An additional 23 districts benefit from the projects. A second round of awards, also targeted to low-income districts, will be awarded this fall.
- California districts competed for awards in each of California's eleven regions so that all geographic regions of the state are served. Regional amounts available for the competition were based on their relative numbers of poor students.
- California has focused the second round of awards on activities that use technology to support student performance on assessments of the state's standards for language and mathematics.

TEXAS

Hello. This is Vice President Al Gore.

Today, I am pleased to announce the official launching of an exciting new program known as the "E-rate" -- a program that can revolutionize learning by connecting our schools and libraries to the Internet.

Here in (Texas), today's announcement means schools and libraries can receive more than \$200 million connecting more than 3,700 schools to the Internet and giving children all over this state the tools to succeed in the 21st Century.

WHAT THE E-RATE WILL MEAN TO TEXAS' SCHOOLS AND LIBRARIES

- Today's announcements will help put the future at the fingertips of Texas' students and help ensure that Texas is on track to meet the challenges of the 21st Century.
- Texas' schools and libraries have applied for more than \$169 million in E-Rate discounts.
- As part of the first wave of E-Rate application approvals announced today, 89 of Texas' 1,158 E-Rate applications were approved, worth a total of \$3,666,153. Additional application approvals will be announced in the coming weeks.
- Texas's E-Rate applications would directly benefit 59% of its public school districts, 19% of its non-public schools, and 28% of its libraries throughout the state.
- In Texas, the E-Rate will help connect 3,702 public schools and more than 2.1 million children.

Over the last six years Texas has committed an average of approximately \$83 million to educational technology. This portends a substantial commitment to technology, and with a funding request of nearly \$170 million from the E-Rate it is clear that Texas looks to the E-Rate to build upon this resolution. Texas is state that is below the national average in terms of percentages of schools wired to the Internet (64%).

WHAT THE CLINTON-GORE TECHNOLOGY LITERACY CHALLENGE FUND MEANS TO TEXAS

Fund Allocations:

FY 97 \$16,339,913 FY 98 \$35,344,118 FY 99 \$34,944,672

- With today's announcement, Texas will receive more than \$34.9 million to help integrate technology into the classroom.
- The TLCF has accelerated progress on Texas' long-range plan for technology.
- TLCF funds have supported state, regional and local professional development efforts under a variety of initiatives implementing K-12 standards for technology.
- A total of 57 awards were made, impacting 643 school districts, four charter schools and over 60 private schools.
- Professional development was a key component for all recipients.

FLORIDA

Hello. This is Vice President Al Gore.

Today, I am pleased to announce the official launching of an exciting new program known as the "E-rate" -- a program that can revolutionize learning by connecting our schools and libraries to the Internet.

Here in [Florida], today's announcement means schools and libraries can receive more than \$88 million connecting nearly 1,000 schools to the Internet and giving children all over this state the tools to succeed in the 21st Century.

WHAT THE E-RATE WILL MEAN TO FLORIDA'S SCHOOLS AND LIBRARIES

- Today's announcements will help put the future at the fingertips of Florida's students and help ensure that Florida is on track to meet the challenges of the 21st Century.
- Florida's schools and libraries have applied for more than \$70 million in E-Rate discounts.
- As part of the first wave of E-Rate application approvals announced today, 19 of Florida's 742 E-Rate applications were approved, worth a total of \$1,962,266. Additional application approvals will be announced in the coming weeks.
- Florida's E-Rate applications would directly benefit 38% of its public school districts, 14% of its non-public schools, and 60% of its libraries throughout the state.
- In Florida, the E-Rate will help connect 987 public schools and more than 850,000 children.

Florida has the third largest student enrollment in the nation, but has an above national average 17:1 student to computer ratio. In an effort to improve this number further and ensure that remote areas of the state have access, Florida state is applying for \$70.9 million in E-Rate funding (60% of the state's libraries applied for funding, the tenth most in the country). This makes Florida one of the top ten states in total dollars requested.

WHAT THE CLINTON-GORE TECHNOLOGY LITERACY CHALLENGE FUND MEANS TO FLORIDA

Fund Allocation:

FY97 \$7,901,240 FY 98 \$18,631,872 FY 99 \$18,519,414

- With today's announcement, Florida will receive more than \$18 million to help integrate technology into the classroom.
- The TLCF grant promotes the development and dissemination of effective technology-based instructional strategies specifically aligned with Florida's Sunshine State Standards.
- Florida awarded 67 grants to over 50 school districts under the program. Grant awards ranged from to \$67,000 to \$500,000.
- District grant applications targeted specific schools with preference given to schools with high poverty and greatest need for technology.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Hello. This is Vice President Al Gore.

Today, I am pleased to announce the official launching of an exciting new program known as the "E-rate" -- a program that can revolutionize learning by connecting our schools and libraries to the Internet.

Here in [New Hampshire], today's announcement means schools and libraries can receive nearly \$5 million connecting more than 160 schools to the Internet and giving children all over this state the tools to succeed in the 21st Century.

WHAT THE E-RATE WILL MEAN TO NEW HAMPSHIRE'S SCHOOLS AND LIBRARIES

- Today's announcements will help put the future at the fingertips of New Hampshire's students and help ensure that New Hampshire is on track to meet the challenges of the 21st Century.
- New Hampshire's schools and libraries have applied for more than \$2.7 million in E-Rate discounts.
- As part of the first wave of E-Rate application approvals announced today, 21 of New Hampshire's 207 E-Rate applications were approved, worth a total of \$172,755. Additional application approvals will be announced in the coming weeks.
- New Hampshire's E-Rate applications would directly benefit 37% of its public school districts, 15% of its non-public schools, and 23% of its libraries throughout the state.
- In New Hampshire, the E-Rate will help connect 161 public schools and more than 86,000 children.

School funding is largely a local responsibility in New Hampshire, and for that reason, districts vary widely in what educational technology they offer students. More than 90% of education funding comes from property taxes and consequently technology funding from the state is almost non-existent.

New Hampshire has the second worst student-to-multimedia computer ratio in the nation, 29:1. It is also far below the national average in terms of percent of schools that are connected to a wide-area network and schools connected to a local-area network, 10% and 50% respectively.

WHAT THE CLINTON-GORE TECHNOLOGY LITERACY CHALLENGE FUND MEANS TO NEW HAMPSHIRE

Fund Allocations:

FY 97 \$1,000,000 FY 98 \$2,125,000 FY 99 \$2,125,000

- With today's announcement, New Hampshire will receive more than \$2 million to help integrate technology into the classroom.
- During 1997, New Hampshire used the TLCF to help school districts accelerate the implementation of their technology plans. This included purchasing hardware and software to improve student learning, connecting to telecommunication networks, and providing ongoing professional development.

TENNESSEE

Hello. This is Vice President Al Gore.

Today, I am pleased to announce the official launching of an exciting new program known as the "E-rate" -- a program that can revolutionize learning by connecting our schools and libraries to the Internet.

Here in [Tennessee], today's announcement means schools and libraries can receive \$42 million connecting more than 870 schools to the Internet and giving children all over this state the tools to succeed in the 21st Century.

WHAT THE E-RATE WILL MEAN TO TENNESSEE'S SCHOOLS AND LIBRARIES

- Today's announcements will help put the future at the fingertips of Tennessee's students and help ensure that Tennessee is on track to meet the challenges of the 21st Century.
- Tennessee's schools and libraries have applied for more than \$36 million in E-Rate discounts.
- As part of the first wave of E-Rate application approvals announced today, 49 of Tennessee's 300 E-Rate applications were approved, worth a total of \$3,085,006. Additional application approvals will be announced in the coming weeks.
- Tennessee's E-Rate applications would directly benefit 55% of its public school districts, 7% of its non-public schools, and 60% of its libraries throughout the state.
- In Tennessee, the E-Rate will help connect 873 public schools and more than 490,000 children.

Tennessee ranks second among the fifty states in the percentage of schools with Internet access (89%) and percentage of schools connected to a wide area network (56%), and has the highest percentage of its total instructional computers located in the classroom (61%). While this progress is impressive, a slightly below national average 22:1 student to multimedia computer ratio helps Tennessee recognize that there is still a lot of room for improvement. As evidenced by its \$37 million funding request from the E-Rate, Tennessee is looking for the E-Rate to be the source of much of this improvement

WHAT THE CLINTON-GORE TECHNOLOGY LITERACY CHALLENGE FUND MEANS TO TENNESSEE

Fund Allocations:

FY 97 \$3,457,692 FY 98 \$7,184,544 FY 99 \$7,123,515

- With today's announcement, Tennessee will receive more than \$7 million to help integrate technology into the classroom.
- Tennessee targeted TLCP funds to schools that had the least amount of technology. With TLCP as an incentive, districts contributed local funds for necessary upgrades and components to connect 36,000 more computers in schools to the Internet.
- Hundreds of teachers in one school system have begun using the Internet in their classrooms since Internet sites tied to curriculum objectives were introduced.

LOUISIANA

Hello. This is Vice President Al Gore.

Today, I am pleased to announce the official launching of an exciting new program known as the "E-rate" -- a program that can revolutionize learning by connecting our schools and libraries to the Internet.

Here in [Louisiana], today's announcement means schools and libraries can receive \$48 million connecting more than 1300 schools to the Internet and three out of four libraries giving children all over this state the tools to succeed in the 21st Century.

WHAT THE E-RATE WILL MEAN TO LOUISIANA'S SCHOOLS AND LIBRARIES

- Today's announcements will help put the future at the fingertips of Louisiana's students and help ensure that Louisiana is on track to meet the challenges of the 21st Century.
- Louisiana's schools and libraries have applied for more than \$38 million in E-Rate discounts.
- As part of the first wave of E-Rate application approvals announced today, 70 of Louisiana's 545 E-Rate applications were approved, worth a total of \$1,117,823. Additional application approvals will be announced in the coming weeks.
- Louisiana's E-Rate applications would directly benefit 91% of its public school districts, 54% of its non-public schools, and 76% of its libraries throughout the state.
- In Louisiana, the E-Rate will help connect 1327 public schools and more than 720,000 children.

Louisiana understands the urgency of diving into the digital age. So much so that a remarkable 91% of its public schools and 76% of its libraries (more than any other state) applied for the E-Rate. Pointe Coupe School District has opened a completely computer based alternative school, the School of Hope. The school educates students who are failing in traditional classrooms and accommodates approximately 120 adolescents and adults who usually enter the school two grade levels behind. With the assistance of 35 networked computers, creating an integrated learning system, the school has successfully graduated students who have gone on to attain good jobs. Using this model and E-Rate funding, the state of Louisiana hopes to make every school a School of Hope.

WHAT THE CLINTON-GORE TECHNOLOGY LITERACY CHALLENGE FUND MEANS TO LOUISIANA

Fund Allocations:
FY 97 \$5,348,827, FY 98 \$10,272,812, FY 99 \$10,592,292

- With today's announcement, Louisiana will receive more than \$10 million to help integrate technology into the classroom.
- As a result of TLCF funding, thousands of teachers from every school district in the state have begun to learn about technology and explore the power that technology holds for their students.
- "The human and electronic network that has resulted from the combined efforts of the Federal Technology Literacy Challenge initiative, and the funds dedicated from the state, is having a tremendous impact on teaching and learning in Louisiana." - Dr. Carol S. Whelan, Director of Educational Technology, Louisiana Department of Education

NORTH CAROLINA

Hello. This is Vice President Al Gore.

Today, I am pleased to announce the official launching of an exciting new program known as the "E-rate" -- a program that can revolutionize learning by connecting our schools and libraries to the Internet.

Here in [North Carolina], today's announcement means schools and libraries can receive \$37 million connecting nearly 1800 schools to the Internet and giving children all over this state the tools to succeed in the 21st Century.

WHAT THE E-RATE WILL MEAN TO NORTH CAROLINA'S SCHOOLS AND LIBRARIES

- Today's announcements will help put the future at the fingertips of North Carolina's students and help ensure that North Carolina is on track to meet the challenges of the 21st Century.
- North Carolina's schools and libraries have applied for more than \$30 million in E-Rate discounts.
- As part of the first wave of E-Rate application approvals announced today, 69 of North Carolina's 486 E-Rate applications were approved, worth a total of \$918,386. Additional application approvals will be announced in the coming weeks.
- North Carolina's E-Rate applications would directly benefit 91% of its public school district, 6% of its non-public schools, and 27% of its libraries throughout the state.
- In North Carolina, the E-Rate will help connect 1797 public schools and more than 1 million children.

The state is ready and prepared to use E-Rate telecommunications discounts to implement technology plans for 117 districts in an effort to improve technology integration. Despite North Carolina's leap into the information age, it has a 26 to 1 student to multimedia computer ratio, which ranks at low a 40 out of the 50 states. E-Rate will certainly decrease that ratio as 90% of North Carolina's schools head down the path to continuous technology improvement.

WHAT THE CLINTON-GORE TECHNOLOGY LITERACY CHALLENGE FUND MEANS TO NORTH CAROLINA

Fund Allocations:

FY 97 \$3,693,671 FY 98 \$7,698,245 FY 99 \$7,700,987

- With today's announcement, North Carolina will receive more than \$7.7 million to help integrate technology into the classroom.
- In the first year, the TLCF funded competitive grants to 44 school districts (or consortia) to develop technology models designed to integrate technology into the ongoing instructional program, develop a technology training model designed to improve/enhance technology skills, and develop an assessment model designed to measure the impact that technology availability and use can have on student achievement.
- In the second year, the TLCF funded 72 school district grants ranging from \$55,000 to \$200,000 to implement technology models started in the first year or to develop an Internet Model to provide access, training, and on-line resources directly to the classroom and a library/media model designed to show the impact that technology can make in this setting.

GEORGIA

Hello. This is Vice President Al Gore.

Today, I am pleased to announce the official launching of an exciting new program known as the "E-rate" -- a program that can revolutionize learning by connecting our schools and libraries to the Internet.

Here in [Georgia], today's announcement means schools and libraries can receive \$110 million connecting more than 1200 schools to the Internet and giving children all over this state the tools to succeed in the 21st Century.

WHAT THE E-RATE WILL MEAN TO GEORGIA'S SCHOOLS AND LIBRARIES

- Today's announcements will help put the future at the fingertips of Georgia's students and help ensure that Georgia is on track to meet the challenges of the 21st Century.
- Georgia's schools and libraries have applied for more than \$101 million in E-Rate discounts.
- As part of the first wave of E-Rate application approvals announced today, 33 of Georgia's 348 E-Rate applications were approved, worth a total of \$969,171. Additional application approvals will be announced in the coming weeks.
- Georgia's E-Rate applications would directly benefit 67% of its public school districts, 8% of its non-public schools, and 49% of its libraries throughout the state.
- In Georgia, the E-Rate will help connect 1248 public schools and more than 870,000 children.

WHAT THE CLINTON-GORE TECHNOLOGY LITERACY CHALLENGE FUND MEANS TO GEORGIA

Fund Allocations:

FY 97 \$4,792,173 FY 98 \$10,891,218 FY 99 \$10,762,883

- With today's announcement, Georgia will receive more than \$10.7 million to help integrate technology into the classroom.
- The TLCF funded school districts to work across district lines in ways not previously done.
- Georgia dedicated \$2 million of its \$10.7 million 1998 allocation to professional development. The remainder of the funds helped local school districts implement other parts of their technology plans.
- Georgia also funded several consortia. One includes four high poverty school districts that came together to apply the use of technology to tackling low student achievement, and establish a wireless wide area network to provide professional development.

Launching The E-Rate

Martin Luther King Library, DC

10:25 - 11:30 am, Monday November 23rd, 1998

Meeting requested by Jim Kohlenberger

Briefing prepared by Jim Kohlenberger

EVENT

You are going to Martin Luther King Library to make an historic commitment to our children by launching the E-Rate, announcing the first of \$1.9 billion in E-Rate funding, and taking the next step to help fulfill your goal of connecting every classroom and library to the Internet by the Year 2000. In addition to announcing first round of E-Rate funding, you are announcing an additional \$425 million in Department of Education grants that will help schools buy the computers, train the teachers, and purchase the software that are necessary to achieve the full promise of educational technology. Today's launch of the E-Rate will help connect 30 million children in 40,000 public schools across the country.

LOGISTICS (As of this writing, subject to change)

- **Greeters:**

- Mary Raphael, Director, MLK Memorial Public Library

- Kate Moore, CEO, Schools and Libraries Corporation

- Bill Kennard, Chairman, FCC

- **Student Demonstrations:** You, Secretary Riley and Chairman Kennard, visit two computer stations where students are engaged in on-line learning exercises.

- **Preprogram:**

- Representative Eleanor Holmes North (D-DC)

- Representative Tim Roemer (D-IN)

- Representative Javier Becerra (D-CA)

- Representative Constance Morella (R-MD)

- Senator Kent Conrad (D-ND)

- Senator John ("Jay") Rockefeller (D-WV)

- **Program:**

- Senator Rockefeller will do an on-stage announcement of you, accompanied by Secretary Riley, Bill Kennard, Laura Thiesen [THE-Sen], a 9th Grader from Monterey High School, Monterey, TN.

- Chairman Kennard remarks and introduces Secretary Riley.

- Secretary Riley delivers brief remarks and introduces Laura Thiesen.

- Laura Thiesen introduces you.

- You deliver remarks and depart.

YOUR ROLE/CONTRIBUTION

- Although the primary goal of this event is to launch the E-Rate and demonstrate its importance to schools across the country, other goals include highlighting:
 - ✓ **The E-Rate's Bipartisan Support.** The E-Rate began as a bipartisan amendment, passed with bipartisan support in Congress, implementation details recommended by a bipartisan Federal-State joint board, and passed by a unanimous vote of a bipartisan FCC.
 - ✓ **The Historic Significance.** Bringing technology into the classrooms will change the way we learn just as profoundly as the introduction of slates and chalk or the McGuffey Reader -- the first widely used American school textbook. Today's announcement also moves us forward in the broader historical context that you have talked about as civilization has adopted first the spoken word, then the written word, and now the digital word in education.
 - ✓ **Connecting this to your 20 year old vision of the Information Superhighway.** We are connecting this announcement to your vision of the Information Superhighway and the theoretical girl from Tennessee logging into the Library of Congress. (See below)
 - ✓ **Focussing On Learning.** By announcing \$425 million in Technology Literacy Challenge Grants, you can demonstrate your commitment to seeing that these tools are fully integrated into the learning process by providing states with the money to pay for teacher technology training and educational software.

PROGRAM NOTES

- **Martin Luther King Library.** Although MLK Library has been lucky to receive gifts from Bill Gates and Bell Atlantic for computers and networking, they can't afford the ongoing costs of Internet connections without the E-Rate. The DC Public Library system, of which MLK is a part, expects to receive an 81% discount on its Internet services worth an estimated \$350,000 per year. This will allow all 27 branches of the DC Public Library System to be connected with high-speed Internet access by January. Today, 10 branches have limited Internet access. The E-Rate will also allow the library to provide their library catalog over the Internet, add new public access terminals, and support affordable high-speed Internet connections.

Across the country 42% of public libraries have applied for the E-Rate. Public libraries are the number one point of public access for Americans without Internet access at home. The E-Rate allows the smallest libraries in the most remote parts of the country to share the same Universe of knowledge at the same time.

- **Laura Thiesen.** You are being introduced by Laura Thiesen a 9th Grader from Monterey High School in Monterey, TN (about 40 miles outside of Carthage) Laura is from the school closest to Carthage that will be receiving E-Rate money in the first wave of funding commitments that schools will receive beginning today. Although she was not even born when you first started talking about the Information Superhighway 20 years ago, her school's connection to the Internet today is symbolic of the girl you used to talk about 20 years ago logging into the Library of Congress. Because of today's announcement, Laura, will be able to log onto the Library of Congress, the Martin Luther King Library where the event is taking place, and soon almost every other library in the country whenever she wants.

Laura's teacher Elizabeth Pearson will also be at the event. Mrs. Pearson's husband Mike is a member of your Secret Service protective detail located in Carthage.

- **Speech Visual: A McGuffey Reader**

You will have a copy of an original McGuffey Reader that you can hold up at the appropriate point in your remarks. In 1836, the McGuffey Reader helped to revolutionize learning when it became the first truly affordable national school textbook and gave kids everywhere access to the same universe of knowledge. The McGuffey Reader was the first text geared to grade level. That was when everything a child needed to learn could fit into one book. Now the entire universe of human knowledge doubles every 5 years. Today's announcement could have even greater impact than the McGuffey Reader. The E-Rate can, for the first time, put at the disposal of every child, not a single, finite universe of knowledge, but an unlimited, rich universe of constantly expanding knowledge that can be tailored to their own level and learning style. Every child in America, whether rural or urban, rich or poor, will be able to reach out and access the Library of Congress, and every other library and school in the country and many around the world. Authored by William Holmes McGuffey, total sales of the McGuffey readers eventually reached 122 million. McGuffey Reader's and slates became essentials for learning in the one room school house.

TODAY'S ANNOUNCEMENT.

Launching the E-Rate. First, you are announcing that over the next 2 months, schools and libraries will start receiving \$1.9 billion helping to connect 30 million children in 40,000 public schools across the country to the Internet. As a part of the first wave of acceptance letters being received this week, more than 3,000 of the 30,000 schools systems and libraries systems across the country that have applied for the E-Rate will begin receiving letters worth a total of \$73 million. E-Rate applications overall cover 64% of public schools districts, 27% of non-public schools, and 42% of libraries throughout the country.

Ensuring Technology Improves Learning. Second, you are announcing that states and local communities will receive \$425 million in grants from the Administration's Technology Literacy Challenge Fund. This fund complements the E-Rate by allowing local communities to purchase modern computers, train teachers to use technology, and buy high-quality educational software. These grants represent the third installment of a five-year \$2 billion investment to ensure that students across the country are technologically literate.

ATTACHMENTS

- Remarks
- E-Rate State by State
- School demonstrations

REMARKS BY VICE PRESIDENT AL GORE
E-RATE ANNOUNCEMENT
Monday, November 23, 1998

Thank you, Laura, for showing all of us why 21st Century education is so important. And I thank all of you for joining us today, as we make a landmark new announcement that will truly make this new Information Age an education age for Laura Thiesen [THEE-sen] and for all of our children.

Today, more than ever before, knowledge is the key strategic resource, and learning is the key strategic skill. That is why President Clinton and I have worked so hard to make education our number-one priority: hiring 100,000 highly-trained teachers to reduce class sizes. Fighting to rebuild and modernize our schools. Raising standards for students, teachers, and schools. Working to end the social promotions that only hold back our children. Opening the doors to college wider than ever before.

But we know that if we truly want a 21st Century education for our children, we must move beyond the confines of traditional textbooks and learning, and help our children tap into a vast new world of discovery. That means making sure that our children and their teachers are as comfortable with a keyboard as they are with a chalkboard.

Twenty years ago, long before the World Wide Web had even been developed -- and before Laura was even born -- I used to speak about the day when a young girl from my home state of Tennessee could stretch her hand across a keyboard and read any book in the Library of Congress. Even as I spoke those words, it seemed like a fantastic and far-off vision. Today, with the announcement of the first round of E-Rate funding, we take a major step toward not only making that vision a reality, but going beyond it -- putting almost every library on line, and giving every child in America the tools to visit.

Throughout our history, there have been a number of revolutions in education. There was the writing slate, which allowed students to write on their own, and have some control over their individual learning. And in 1836, the first truly national textbook was published -- the McGuffey Reader, which geared learning towards age level, and reached hundreds of millions of children. *[hold up reader]* It was the first time every child in America had access to the same universe of knowledge.

But now, with the entire store of human knowledge doubling every five years, we know that easily outdated textbooks aren't sufficient to keep up with that change -- or to give our teachers and children the ability to shape the best instruction and learning.

That is why we challenged the nation to connect every classroom and library to the Internet. And although we've made progress, affluent schools are almost three times as likely to have Internet access. That is why we fought so hard to pass the E-Rate -- which offers schools and libraries discounts of 20 to 90 percent on Internet hook-ups -- with the biggest discounts going to the neediest urban and rural schools. Passing the E-Rate was a major, bipartisan

achievement for our children. And it is based on a simple premise: we can't allow a single child to miss out on the promise of the Information Age. I thank the members of Congress and others here today for their leadership on this vital initiative.

Today, we are putting 21st Century education on-line, all across America. I am proud to announce that over the next two months, schools and libraries across the country will start receiving nearly \$2 billion in e-rate discounts -- to put the power of 21st Century learning at our children's fingertips. The e-rate will help connect 30 million children in 40,000 public schools and nearly half of our public libraries. And because we are so committed to ensuring that these tools get used to their fullest potential, I am also pleased to announce \$425 million in new grants from our Technology Literacy Challenge Fund. This money will help communities buy modern computers and high-quality educational software -- and to train teachers to use this new technology for the benefit of our children.

One hundred and sixty years ago, the McGuffey Reader gave students access to the same -- though limited -- universe of knowledge. Today, we are taking a historic step forward. We are providing the Internet access, the software, the hardware, and the teacher training that will give all of our children access to the same -- but this time unlimited -- universe of knowledge. We know it will make a difference: research shows that educational technology can improve test scores, reduce drop-out rates, and even increase parental involvement in education. And so, with this series of announcements, we are bringing tens of thousands of schools into the Information Age, so our children can seize its full promise and prosperity.

This announcement is also about strengthening our communities as a whole. By bringing libraries on line, we're making these same vast resources available to communities around the country.

Let's be clear why this is so important. It is about the future of our economy. By the year 2000, it is estimated that 60 percent of all new jobs will require some knowledge of math and science. And high-tech jobs pay wages that are 73 percent higher than the private sector average. Yet today, many leading high-tech companies say they don't have the trained and educated workforce they need to fill those jobs. I want the children with us today at the Martin Luther King Memorial Library to have every chance to do so.

Of course, this is about much more than jobs -- it is about the opportunity for enrichment and enlightenment that have always defined this nation. Just moments ago, I met with children who were using the Internet to dissect a virtual frog and to learn geography. In schools across the country, I have seen the difference computers can make -- taking students on virtual field trips from the depths of the ocean to the valleys of Mars. Allowing them to read the latest articles and essays on just about any subject they want to study. Strengthening the core skills of reading and math while creating a love of learning that once sparked, keeps burning.

Children are ravenous learners. They don't need to be taught the curiosity and love of

discovery that are so essential to educational excellence. They merely need the tools and the well-trained teachers to unlock the doors of discovery, and to show them how much is waiting for them. With the E-Rate, we are opening a virtual floodgate of new learning and knowledge for our children. I know that it will help make our children stronger, better-educated, and better-prepared for the challenges of the 21st Century. Thank you.

E-Rate Applications

State	Public School Districts	Private Schools	Libraries	Mixed Consortia Statewide*	Statewide Libraries
Alabama	91%	9%	47%	Y	
Alaska	87%	4%	26%		
Arizona	56%	9%	46%		
Arkansas	81%	11%	47%		
California	83%	18%	41%	Y	Y
Colorado	61%	12%	25%		Y
Connecticut	69%	40%	34%	Y	
Delaware	15%	20%	50%	Y	
District of Columbia	0%	48%	25%	Y	
Florida	38%	14%	60%	Y	Y
Georgia	67%	8%	49%	Y	
Hawaii	0%**	22%	50%		
Idaho	94%	11%	31%		
Illinois	52%	62%	53%	Y	
Indiana	88%	12%	67%	Y	
Iowa	89%	95%	42%		Y
Kansas	62%	48%	66%		
Kentucky	91%	31%	69%	Y	
Louisiana	91%	54%	76%	Y	Y
Maine	53%	13%	21%	Y	Y
Maryland	62%	24%	65%		
Massachusetts	71%	24%	30%	Y	Y
Michigan	92%	34%	46%		
Minnesota	65%	25%	25%	Y	
Mississippi	93%	20%	64%	Y	
Missouri	62%	51%	36%	Y	
Montana	34%	14%	67%	Y	
Nebraska	27%	26%	5%		Y
Nevada	33%	5%	13%		
New Hampshire	37%	15%	23%		
New Jersey	63%	50%	33%		
New Mexico	76%	14%	43%		Y
New York	49%	61%	53%	Y	
North Carolina	91%	6%	27%		Y
North Dakota	36%	30%	19%	Y	
Ohio	72%	60%	38%		Y
Oklahoma	65%	20%	63%	Y	
Oregon	74%	14%	32%		
Pennsylvania	77%	45%	46%	Y	
Puerto Rico	100%	n/a	n/a	Y	
Rhode Island	100%	50%	38%	Y	Y
South Carolina	76%	4%	35%	Y	
South Dakota	74%	19%	26%		
Tennessee	55%	7%	60%	Y	Y
Texas	59%	19%	28%	Y	
Utah	90%	8%	50%	Y	
Vermont	17%	14%	27%	Y	
Virgin Islands	n/a	100%	0%	Y	
Virginia	81%	16%	73%	Y	
Washington	78%	19%	43%	Y	
West Virginia	2%	12%	1%	Y	Y
Wisconsin	79%	23%	34%		Y
Wyoming	57%	8%	62%	Y	
TOTAL	64%	27%	42%		

Those percentages represent those schools and libraries that have filed Form 470 and have begun the process of applying for E-Rate discounts.

*Identifies that at least one 470 application has been submitted requesting funding for all schools, districts, and libraries in the state.

**In Hawaii, 91% of public Schools applied individually rather than by district.

***Puerto Rico has not separately identified public schools from private schools.

Source: Schools and Libraries Corporation, telephone: 202-289-2663

E-Rate and TLECF Announcement

State	TLECF (in millions)	Total E-Rate funding applied for (in millions)	First Wave E-Rate approval	Total TLECF Plus Total E-Rate Applications (in millions)
Alabama	6.0	52.1	\$1,540,447.00	59
Alaska	2.1	10.3	\$205,866.00	12.4
Arizona	6.2	47.9	\$1,283,766.00	54.1
Arkansas	4.1	10.8	\$621,488.00	14.9
California	45.9	269.1	\$9,234,644.00	315
Colorado	3.8	21.7	\$641,316.00	25.5
Connecticut	3.7	27.4	\$1,056,084.00	31.1
Delaware	2.4	3.7	\$379,899.00	5.8
Florida	18.5	70.9	\$1,962,266.00	89.4
Georgia	10.7	101.4	\$969,171.00	112.1
Hawaii	2.1	8.2	\$404,171.00	10.3
Idaho	2.1	5.3	\$462,375.00	7.4
Illinois	18.0	108.8	\$3,860,156.00	126.8
Indiana	4.3	27.4	\$2,385,265.00	33.7
Iowa	2.8	22.2	\$649,870.00	25
Kansas	3.0	12.2	\$633,913.00	15.2
Kentucky	7.0	47.7	\$43,882.00	54.7
Louisiana	10.5	38.2	\$1,117,823.00	48.7
Maine	2.1	3.1	\$230,140.00	5.2
Maryland	5.4	16.9	\$714,463.00	22.3
Massachusetts	8.0	38.6	\$1,558,827.00	46.6
Michigan	18.0	69.0	\$5,366,660.00	87
Minnesota	4.8	27.6	\$971,784.00	32.4
Mississippi	6.9	21.1	\$1,707,288.00	28
Missouri	6.9	22.6	\$669,833.00	29.5
Montana	2.1	3.5	\$335,217.00	5.6
Nebraska	2.1	4.6	\$692,679.00	6.7
Nevada	2.1	7.8	\$145,172.00	9.9
New	2.1	2.7	\$172,755.00	4.8
New Jersey	8.9	74.3	\$2,024,572.00	83.2
New Mexico	3.4	33.4	\$578,172.00	36.8
New York	37.5	138.2	\$5,788,643.00	175.7
North Carolina	7.7	30.3	\$918,386.00	38
North Dakota	2.1	3.9	\$241,404.00	6
Ohio	16.5	64	\$2,273,543.00	80.5
Oklahoma	4.8	36.4	\$631,696.00	41.2
Oregon	3.7	11.1	\$1,750,251.00	14.8
Pennsylvania	18.3	64.5	\$4,005,884.00	82.8
Rhode Island	2.1	8	\$148,047.00	10.1
South Carolina	5.2	24.4	\$835,339.00	29.6
South Dakota	2.1	3.7	\$394,548.00	5.8
Tennessee	7.1	36.7	\$3,085,006.00	43.8
Texas	34.9	169.5	\$3,666,153.00	204.4
Utah	2.1	4.7	\$326,587.00	6.8
Vermont	2.1	2.7	\$103,430.00	4.8
Virginia	6.0	30.2	\$1,544,230.00	36.2
Washington	5.9	41.7	\$233,836.00	47.6
West Virginia	4.0	7.8	\$470,121.00	11.8
Wisconsin	6.9	81.0	\$1,149,501.00	87.9
Wyoming	2.1	1.6	\$138,054.00	3.7
District of	2.1	16.5	\$21,697.00	18.6
TOTAL	425	1987.4		2412.4

Schools and demos

Note: None of these schools will receive funding commitments in the first wave, but are in very good shape for approval of their applications in a later round.

- **Mt. Rainier Elementary School.** Mt. Rainier has 470 students in grades K-6 in Mt. Rainier, Maryland. The principal is Phil Catania. Mt. Rainier currently has one computer lab (286 processors) with two Internet connections. Students use the Net to supplement classroom curriculum and do research. When the school's erate application is approved, the school will have Internet connectivity in every classroom, with video and voice technology; a computer lab with Pentium II processors; teacher training; and a T1 line.

Four 6th grade students from Mt. Rainier will show you a Web page on frog dissection. They are: Benjamin Swann, Brigit Henzi, Susanna Ventura and Gabriel Mejia.

- **Douglas MacArthur Elementary School.** Douglas MacArthur is a K-5 elementary school of 422 students in Alexandria, Virginia. MacArthur -- like many of the schools in Alexandria -- is already wired and connected to the Internet and its students use the Internet to supplement classroom curriculum. When the school's erate application is approved, the MacArthur will use the erate to network its existing computers, and maintain and improve its computers.

Four 5th grade students from MacArthur will show you how they're using the Web to learn geography (they'll visit a GLOBE site) . They are: Gustaf Cavanaugh, Cyprian Yankey, Valerie Wexler and Rebecca Ball.

- **Holy Redeemer School.** Holy Redeemer is a private Catholic school in Washington, D.C. with about 250 students in pre-K-8 grade. The principal is Mildred Tyler. Holy Redeemer has computers in many of its classrooms, but after its erate application is approved the school will be able to network its computers and connect to the Internet.

Approximately 30 students representing each grade will be in the audience for your speech.

Suggested questions

For Mt. Rainier students:

How do you use computers at school?

I understand you use the Internet from a computer lab. Do you wish that you could get on to the Web from your classrooms, too?

For MacArthur students:

How do use computers to learn about geography?

Do you find that using computers in addition to your other class work makes learning easier?

April 21, 1999

RECOMMENDED PHONE CALL

TO: Senator Jay Rockefeller

PREPARED BY: Jim Kohlenberger

PURPOSE: You are returning Senator Rockefeller's call on the e-rate.

BACKGROUND: The FCC must soon decide how big the E-rate program will be in the second year. Any increase in the E-rate program will almost certainly lead to increases on the phone bill and attacked by Republicans as an increase in the "Gore tax.". Rockefeller would like to see the E-Rate program increased to \$2.25 billion a year as the FCC had committed to do last year. He believes that this can be a defining issue for you going forward.

Attached is thorough background on three options that the FCC could pursue.

Last night (Tuesday), Senator Rockefeller spoke to David Beier about the E-rate and about the Senator's support for Susan Ness. On the E-rate, David indicated that while you had not made a decision on how big of an E-Rate program there should be going forward, that you were committed to achieving your goal of connecting every classroom to the Internet.

CONTACT PERSON AND
TELEPHONE NUMBER(S):

224-6227 (o); 291-2445 (h)

TALKING POINTS:

None attached

E-Rate

ISSUE

Before June, the FCC must decide once again how much to collect for the second round of E-Rate applications and thus how big the E-Rate program should be. Any increase in the collection rate will almost assuredly be passed on to consumers as an increase in the "Gore Tax." Alternatively, by keeping the collection rate constant we won't meet the goal of connecting every classroom to the Internet in the year 2000.

BACKGROUND

Schools and libraries have applied for about \$2.435 billion for the second year of the E-rate. Although the program is capped at \$2.25 billion a year, last year the FCC reduced the program to \$1.275 billion (\$1.9 billion over 18 months) with a commitment (by rule) to increase the program to \$2.25 billion in the second year. Although smaller than originally anticipated, the 1st year E-rate money has allowed us to reach three-quarters of all the classrooms in the country with Internet connections by July of this year.

For the second year of the program, the FCC must decide whether to maintain the current size of the program, or to increase it to connect more classrooms. However, the same size program does not connect as many classrooms as in the first year. When funding applications, the FCC funds Telecommunications and Internet services first, before the connection to the classroom. Of the \$1.9 billion for the first year of the E-rate, \$760 million went for Internet and Telecommunications services while \$897 million paid for inside wire connecting 640,000 classrooms. For the second year applications, the applications for Internet and Telecommunications has risen to \$931 million leaving only \$339 million for internal connections if the program stayed the same size. At that level, 137,000 more classrooms would be connected to the Internet by July of 2000 getting us to 84% of classrooms connected to the Internet.

\$2 Billion Access Charge Reductions.

At the same time as the FCC makes it's E-Rate decision, they will separately be giving long distance companies a "tax cut" of as much as \$2 billion from access charge reductions – the price long distance companies pay to connect to local phone networks. The access reductions, if fully passed through by the long distance companies, would be a reduction of 76 cents per month on all phone bills. Although the E-Rate program has always been more than offset by access charge reductions, we have been unsuccessful in making that case to the public.

Reaction to an Increase in the Collection Rate

- Republicans generally, Hollings, Dingell, long distance companies and consumer groups could be expected to react negatively to an increase in the collection rate.
- In the worst case, we could expect new legislation to terminate the E-rate, calls for Chairman Kennard to resign, a great deal of press highlighting the increase in the "Gore Tax," and give new material for Republican opponents to work with.

Reaction to a constant collection Rate

- Rockefeller, Snowe, rank and file Democrats, Secretary Riley, Education groups, Companies (Cisco, 3Com, IBM etc) and civil rights groups are supportive of an increase in the collection rate and would react negatively if the program stayed at \$1.275 billion.
- In the worst case, rural Senators, because few rural classrooms would be connected, could move to terminate the program; the Education Community, who knows that the program is technically slated by FCC rule to get to \$2.25 billion, would call it the biggest cut in education funding of the Clinton-Gore term; and Republicans could point to both the "Gore Tax", and our failure to connect all classrooms by 2000.

OPTIONS

No-Change \$1.275 billion.

- No change on phone bills
- Only \$339 million available for inside wire as compared to \$900 million last year.
- Would connect 139,000 classrooms or 6% of America's classrooms.
- We could work to expand private sector efforts to connect more classrooms to make up the difference
- Funds schools in the 90% discount category -- only the poorest of the poor inner-city schools -- schools where 75% of students are on school lunch programs.
- Would fund virtually no classroom connections in rural America
- \$1.16 billion in applications would not be funded
- All classrooms would be connected by July 2003 (84% by July 2000) Assuming private sector help.
- Would face decision again next year over collection rates when an even smaller number of classrooms could be connected for \$1.275 billion.

\$1.9 billion per year (program is currently at \$1.9b over 18 months)

- AT&T phone bill could go up by 9 cents to 18 cents per month, (others up too)
- \$939 million for inside wire -- about the same as the first year.
- Connects 385,000 classrooms or 16% of classrooms.
- Funds schools in the 80% and 90% discount categories.
- The program is currently funded at \$1.9 billion over 18 months -- this would fund it at \$1.9 billion for a 12 month period.
- \$565 million in applications would not be funded
- Would still not cover classroom connections for most suburban schools.
- All classrooms connected by January 2001 (94% by July 2000)

\$2.25 billion -- the cap

- AT&T phone bill could go up by 14 cents to 33 cents a month, (others up to)
- Connects 528,000 classrooms or 22% of all classrooms.
- Funds schools in the 70%, 80% and 90% categories.
- \$1.3 billion for inside wire as compared to \$900 million in the first year
- Only about \$215 million in applications would go unfunded
- All classrooms connected by July, 2000

E-Rate Funding Projections

