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Learning First Alliance Shares Concerns about Proposed E-rate Program Reforms

Alliance supports call for increased E-rate funding and equitable distribution of those funds by the FCC

Washington, D.C. – June 30, 2014 – The Learning First Alliance (LFA), a partnership of leading education organizations representing more than 10 million parents, educators and policymakers, supports a recent letter that a group of 13 education organizations collectively sent to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) about the Commission’s proposed changes to the E-rate Program.

In the letter, the organizations stated concerns about:

- The sustainability of the E-rate Program in response to learning of the FCC’s intent to implement a five-year $5 billion plan to invest in Priority II Wi-Fi connections.
- The FCC’s intent to change the existing funding structure for Priority II to a per-pupil formula allocation for schools and a per square-foot formula for libraries.

To address these concerns, the organizations call for:

- An equitable distribution of E-rate funds based on need and not by a formula that will water down support for all areas.
- An increase in the E-rate funding cap.

“E-rate is critical to supporting school connectivity and ultimately student learning,” said Cheryl S. Williams, executive director of the Learning First Alliance. “The LFA agrees with the concerns posed in this letter regarding the proposed E-rate reforms and supports the call for an increased E-rate funding cap and equitable distribution to ensure the program will be both sustainable and successful.”

To learn more about the LFA, visit www.learningfirst.org.

About The Learning First Alliance

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