



SECA Commends the FCC for Providing Schools with Supplemental Internet Funding

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Today the [State E-rate Coordinators' Alliance \(SECA\)](#) praised the FCC's action to open a second E-rate FY 2020 filing window that will provide additional funding to schools whose on-campus Internet needs and costs have increased due to the COVID-19 emergency. The Commission's Order ([DA-20-1091A1.pdf](#)) grants the request that SECA submitted on August 3, 2020 ([SECA August 3 Letter](#)) and relies on the evidence provided in support of its request ([SECA August 27 Letter](#)).

Debra Kriete, SECA Chairperson, made the following statement:

"In the last six months, school officials have seen significant increases in their Internet bandwidth needs and associated costs as they worked to ensure students continued to receive their education during these extraordinary times. We applaud the FCC for recognizing this need and quickly establishing a rare, second application filing window. Under Chairman Pai's leadership, schools have benefited from previous FCC COVID-19 relief related to deadline extensions and waiver of stringent gift rules. We are grateful the Commission acted so quickly to enact this additional relief."

SECA submitted its request in response to the numerous inquiries that state E-rate coordinators received from school officials explaining their increased and unanticipated bandwidth needs and resulting costs. These schools had no way of anticipating their need for more Internet due to the COVID-19 pandemic when they requested their E-rate funding last spring. The subsequent support lent by other stakeholder groups on this

subject illustrated to the FCC that there was widespread support for this request throughout the E-rate community.

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About SECA:

SECA members provide E-rate coordination services in 46 states and 1 U.S. Territory. State Coordinators have daily interactions with and provide training to E-rate applicants to assist them with all aspects of the program. State coordinators serve as intermediaries between the applicant and service provider communities, the E-rate Administrator, and the Federal Communications Commission. SECA regularly communicates with the E-rate program administrator, the Federal Communications Commission) and other federal and state policy makers regarding the operation and administration of the E-rate program to convey recommendations and feedback to fulfill the goals of the program. The organization was established in 1997 and is operated by a dedicated team of volunteers. For more information, please visit www.secaerate.net.