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***FCC Wireline Competition Bureau (WCB) Released
E-RATE Report and Connectivity Data Maps***

The FCC adopted the *E-Rate Modernization Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* on July 11, 2014 with the goal of updating the E-Rate funding program. The Order seeks to modernize and streamline the E-Rate program by transitioning away from legacy and non-broadband technologies, the goal is to refocus the E-Rate program on broadband by committing to fund Category One: external connections, and Category Two: internal connections. (Category Two connections have not been funded through the program since 2012.) A \$1 Billion increase in each of the next two funding years aims to narrow the Wi-Fi gap that has been developing across the nation, and has become more apparent with new emerging technology driven educational tools and environments.

http://transition.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2014/db0723/FCC-14-99A1.pdf

Because of the nature of the modernization and emphasis on streamlining processes and pricing transparency for applicants, a large amount of data and analysis is required. One of the main results of the adoption of the Order for modernization will be reallocating funding and developing 5 year budgets and funding caps to ensure as many students are being served as possible. The WCB and the Office of Strategic Planning and Policy Analysis authored a joint report to aid in the navigation of the vast amounts of data in order for stakeholders to respond and comment on the Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking.

http://transition.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2014/db0812/DA-14-1177A2.pdf

As part of the large amount of data required for the modernization, the FCC has collected various sources of information <http://www.fcc.gov/encyclopedia/e-rate-modernization-data> and used these datasets to begin the process of implementing the funding reallocation. Also, the FCC has created 2 maps <http://www.fcc.gov/maps/E-rate-fiber-map> of the United States that show the Fiber Connectivity to Schools and Libraries across the country. After review of the maps, (an interactive mouseover feature allows you to view the percentage of public schools with fiber connectivity in an area according to the FCC) it has become apparent that their data is not up to date. It is very important that this map is accurate. The FCC has been clear that the Order is just a first step, and budget increases are to meet perceived lack of Fiber availability in

rural areas. It is very important that we provide updated information to the FCC to correct the issue, and help provide the data needed for Further Rulemaking and specific connectivity targets. Review is needed in your area on the maps to ensure accurate representation, and corrections can be provided via email to schoolfibermap@fcc.gov in either a spreadsheet or .csv format. It is also important a National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) code for the school or other identifier is included. The NCES codes for schools in your service area can be found at <http://nces.ed.gov/ccd/schoolsearch/>.

GVNW can assist in the updating process. Please contact your consultant or Ashlea Kenalty at akenalty@gvnw.com or call (830)895-7240.