



October 13, 2014

Dear Member,

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**E-Rate Letter to Share - Legislative Call to Action - by October 15th**

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC or Commission) recently sought additional comments (per a [Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking](#), pg 106) on the funding needs of the [E-Rate Program for Schools and Libraries](#).

We encourage **state-wide organizations, school districts, schools, and others** to join in by signing onto a letter ([attached PDF](#)) demonstrating support for the E-rate program and our nation's schools and public libraries.

**The deadline to sign-on is 12:00 p.m. (noon) on October 15, 2014.**

The time is *now* to demonstrate support for the Commission to act by making a permanent increase to E-rate funding. Since the program was established in 1998 and capped at \$2.25 billion, E-rate funding has not been increased (aside from an annual inflationary adjustment *starting* in 2010). In a time when almost every single classroom and the majority of libraries in the nation have lower speed internet access than the average American home while serving multiple times more users per day, it is time to ensure all students and library patrons can access high speed broadband they need in their schools and public libraries to excel in school and beyond.

More than 75 *national organizations* (including education associations, companies, and many others) recently submitted the same [letter](#). The Commission must also hear from state and local entities too!

To sign on:

- Please [complete this form](#) identifying how you'd like your organization to be included on the letter to the Commission. Please also include your name, title, and email address.

- Widely circulate this email and sign-on letter with your partners and colleagues and urge them to sign on.

**The deadline to sign-on is 12:00 p.m. on October 15, 2014.** After the letter is filed with the Commission on October 15, a final letter will be distributed to all signators.

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**2014 Annual Conference - Program Book now Online - Registration is Still Open!**

The Annual Conference registration is still open and [you can register from here](#). We have placed the entire [Conference Program Book](#) online for you to see and plan your conference schedule out. If you haven't registered yet, check out the program and see if you wouldn't benefit by attending. We would love to have you there!

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**ESA Metrics Database is Opening**

Detailed letters are going out now to agency CEOs about how to participate in the ESA Metrics Database. Some folks who have used it in the past have shared the value of this information: "The state comparison information helped our legislature understand what an ESA should be doing and resulted in improved ESA legislation for us." "Our board members love it when I can bring in good data to show them how we compare with other agencies." "I've used this information to support presentations to my superintendents groups and my board members. It resulted in better information so we could make better decisions." We wait until this time of the year to open up the registration so you can put in financial information and this year's programmatic information to be accurate. Watch for this registration information to come out soon.

<http://data.mvesc.org/surveys/aesasurvey2014.html>

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**Special Professional Development - Entrepreneurism - Hold the Date**

***Jump Start Summit - February 25 - 26, 2014 in Tampa, FL.***

This will be a great opportunity to learn how to develop relationships and work with companies. Both ESA leadership and company CEOs will sit side-by-side learning and collaborating in this process. Details will be coming soon.

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