

September 19, 2017

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Keith R. Krueger, CAE
Chief Executive Officer, CoSN

Ajit Pai
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Pai:

The recent hurricanes making landfall along the Gulf Coast severely damaged a large number of schools, including the education technology infrastructure teachers and students rely on for learning, family engagement, and regular communications. Given the vital importance of broadband connectivity to the nation's schools, I am writing to urge the Federal Communications Commission to use its regulatory authority, technical insights, and resources to help school districts swiftly recover.

The storms' incredible breadth and intensity left many impacted school districts scrambling to address problems across numerous buildings and classrooms. District leaders are working hard to resolve the serious technology and other challenges created by the storms, while also carrying-out the wide range of regular activities associated with the beginning of a new school year. Some of the minor connectivity issues schools face will be addressed quickly, but other major problems could take months, or even years, to resolve. In almost all cases, school districts will require significant state and federal support to restore their facilities and meet students' and teachers' connectivity and other education technology needs.

Page Two
September 19, 2017

As with past storms, we expect federal emergency response programs to help districts address these challenges, but communities will also benefit from the FCC's leadership and support. On behalf of our national membership, we strongly encourage the FCC to use its authority, and resources such as the E-rate and Lifeline programs, to help fill broadband infrastructure restoration gaps faced by school districts and students that are not otherwise met by federal emergency responses programs. A collective local, state, and federal response to this communications and technology infrastructure need will help to ensure normal school operations are underway as quickly as possible.

Thank you for the attention you have already paid to this important challenge. Our national membership appreciates the FCC's leadership during this difficult time and look forward to working with you and the entire commission to help impact schools come back stronger than ever.

Sincerely,



Keith R. Krueger
CoSN CEO

Cc:
Mignon Clyburn, Commissioner
Michael O'Rielly, Commissioner
Brendan Carr, Commissioner
Jessica Rosenworcel, Commissioner