WIRELINE COMPETITION BUREAU ANNOUNCES DEADLINES FOR COMMENTS ON REVISING THE E-RATE RULES TO PROVIDE SCHOOLS MORE FLEXIBILITY TO ALLOW COMMUNITY USE OF BROADBAND SERVICES

CC Docket No. 02-6

Comment Date: April 5, 2010
Reply Comment Date: April 19, 2010

On February 19, 2010, the Commission released an order and notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) that enabled schools that receive funding from the E-rate program (more formally, the schools and libraries universal service support program) to allow members of the general public to use the schools’ Internet access during non-operating hours. In the order, the Commission waived, on its own motion, through funding year 2010 (ending June 30, 2011), rules that currently discourage public use of resources funded under the E-rate program. In the NPRM, the Commission sought comment on revising its rules to make this change permanent.

The Commission set the comment and reply comment deadline for the E-rate Community Use Order and NPRM as 30 and 45 days, respectively, after publication of the summary of the NPRM in the Federal Register. On March 5, 2010, a summary of the NPRM appeared in the Federal Register. Accordingly, comments will be due on April 5, 2010, and reply comments will be due on April 19, 2010.

For comment and reply comment filing requirements, please consult the E-rate Community Use Order and NPRM. For further information regarding this proceeding, please contact Regina Brown, Telecommunications Access Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau at (202) 418-7400 or TTY (202) 418-0484.

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2 Id. at paras. 7-15.

3 Id. at paras. 16-19.

4 E-rate Community Use Order and NPRM.

5 75 Fed Reg. 10199 (Mar. 5, 2010).

6 E-rate Community Use Order and NPRM at paras. 23-27.