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**STATEMENT FROM FCC CHAIRMAN TOM WHEELER**

**ON THE STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS AND THE FCC’s E-RATE PROGRAM**

**Washington, D.C**. – FCC Chairman Thomas Wheeler issued the following statement today:

 “Harnessing the power of digital technology is central to improving our education system and our global competitiveness. In the Internet age, every student in America should have access to state-of-the-art educational tools, which are increasingly interactive, individualized and bandwidth-intensive. The Federal Communications Commission shares the President’s commitment to seizing the opportunities of digital learning, which is why we’ve already launched an effort to modernize our successful E-Rate program – the nation’s largest education technology program. By applying business-like management practices to E-Rate, we can take steps this year that will make existing funds go farther to significantly increase our investment in high-speed broadband connectivity for schools and libraries for the benefit of our students and teachers. Together, with my fellow Commissioners, Congress, educators and other stakeholders, we can ensure that all of America’s students get a 21st-century education.”

-FCC-

News about the Federal Communications Commission can also be found

on the Commission’s web site [www.fcc.gov](http://www.fcc.gov/).