

**STATEMENT OF
COMMISSIONER MICHAEL J. COPPS**

Re: *Release of Funding Year 2005 Eligible Services List for Schools and Libraries
Universal Service Mechanism (CC Docket No. 02-6)*

I am pleased to support the Eligible Services List we release today. This approach enhances the transparency of the application process. It will make it simpler for schools and libraries to apply for E-Rate support. In light of the growing complexity of the Schools and Libraries Support Mechanism, this is a good thing. Still, I am disappointed we have yet to resolve open questions regarding the eligibility of dark fiber services. When dark fiber was pulled abruptly from eligibility last year, some rural schools and libraries were left high and dry. We are overdue for resolving this issue. There's more than enough confusion mounting with respect to E-Rate administration.