

**FCC Chairman Proposes to Increase E-rate Funding by \$1.5 Billion
11/19/2014**

~ All PA Schools and Libraries Encouraged to Apply for Internal Connections Funding in FY 2015 ~

On Monday, November 17, FCC Chairman Wheeler announced a proposal to increase the E-rate fund from \$2.413 billion to \$3.913 billion beginning with Funding Year 2015. This would be in addition to the \$1 billion that the FCC already has set aside for FY 2015, bringing the potential E-rate funding cap to \$4.913 billion next year. Assuming the proposal is approved by the full Commission on December 11, this is a complete game-changer in terms of who should apply for Category 2 internal connections (previously called Priority 2) funding for FY 2015.

In all of my previous trainings, I suggested that the \$1 billion set aside for Category 2 funding likely would only fund down to around the 80% discount level in FY 2015.

With this new funding, I believe there is a good chance that most if not all Category 2 applications will be funded for FY 2015 -- regardless of discount level -- and I encourage all PA schools and libraries that are in need of eligible internal connections equipment to apply for funding this year.

I hope this comes as welcome news to the many, many schools and libraries that have told me they need internal wiring and wireless networking equipment immediately. I will be conducting additional Category 2 training in the coming weeks to help everyone prepare.

-- Julie

Julie Tritt Schell
PA E-rate Coordinator

717-730-7133 - o

717-730-9060 - f

jtschell@comcast.net

www.e-ratepa.org