December 09, 2022

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1236 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
322 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
3468 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
317 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Majority Leader Schumer, Minority Leader McConnell, and Minority Leader McCarthy:

We, the undersigned educators, district leaders and school board members representing schools and districts across the nation, respectfully ask that Congress help replenish the Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF), beginning with a $1 billion appropriation in Fiscal Year (2023).

ECF, established under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, has allowed the Federal Communications Commission to support schools and libraries in their efforts to close the digital divide. To date, nearly 15 million children have benefited from the program with millions of devices and high-speed internet connections provided. This is a significant step in closing the “homework gap,” which left 16.9 million children disconnected even before the pandemic.

The demand for the program has far exceeded the $7.17 billion fund with nearly $9.25 billion in requests. In the final application window alone, over $2.8 billion was requested, more than double what remained in the program.

Additional funding is critical as we work daily to support students and contend with ongoing teacher shortages in our school buildings. We cannot let our students lose their internet access - a crucial tool in 21st-century learning.

Your ongoing leadership will help our nation’s children recover academically as we emerge from the pandemic. Our charge is to educate our future leaders, thinkers, and innovators and we need your continued support through the Emergency Connectivity Fund to do this work.

Sincerely,

Wendy Goodwin, Chief Technology Officer, Gadsden City Schools, Alabama  
Alfred Daniel, Academic Consultant, The Educational Athletic Makeover, Alabama
Michael McCarthy, Teacher, Montgomery Public Schools, Alabama
Faleula Sappa, Program Director, American Samoa Department of Education - Guidance and Counseling Division, American Samoa
Joan Reichel, Literacy Volunteer, Cochise Area Literacy Council, Arizona
Denise Kenney, Technology Coordinator, Tuscon Unified School District, Arizona
Kimberly Albright, Library Media Specialist, Dumas School District, Arkansas
Pam Pipkins, Library Media Specialist, Mayflower Middle School, Arkansas
Ashley Bass, Paraprofessional, Bergman School District, Arkansas
Aimee Randolph, Librarian, Arkansas
Denise Airola, Director, Office of Innovation for Education, Arkansas
Heather Hughes, Library Media Specialist, Lake Hamilton School, Arkansas
Kathleen Bennet, Teacher, Norfork Public Schools, Arkansas
Lisa Huelle, Teacher, Arkansas
Lisa Davis, Teacher, Bergman High School, Arkansas
David Lauchmen, Teacher, Armed Forces Pacific
Adrian Bica, Chief Technology Officer, Santa Rosa City Schools, California
Rebecka Hagerty, Administration Research & Evaluation (Retired), Sacramento City Schools, California
Ellen Palmer, Educational Technology Program Administrator, Pomona Unified School District, California
William Davis, Administrator of College and Career Readiness, Tulare County Office of Education, California
Marian Murphy-Shaw, Curriculum Director, Siskiyou County Office Of Education, California
Jean Lovett, Library Media Specialist, Temecula Valley Unified School District, California
Taletha Derrington, Senior Researcher, American Institutes for Research, California
Robert Lenz, CEO, PBLWorks, California
Fatima Cristerna-Adame, Advocacy Director, CCSA, California
Raylene Sisneroz, Teacher-Librarian, Dawson Library, California
Joyce Cisper, Library Media Tech, San Jose Unified School District, California
Alfonso Ayala, Associate Director of Talent Acquisition, California
Kelli Scholnick, Manager, California
Alberto M. Carvalho, Superintendent, Los Angeles Unified School District, California
Lori Gonzalez, Superintendent, Lamont Elementary School District, California
Sherry Martin, Superintendent, Kings River Union Elementary School, California
Cindy Lopez, Teacher, California
Rachael Johnson, Teacher, California
Gail Rodono, Teacher, Redondo Beach Unified School District, California
Nienke Levin-Mertz, Teacher, Redwood City School District, California
Claudia Espinoza, Teacher, Dr. Lewis Dolphin Stallworth Sr. Charter School, California
Elizabeth Darovic, Teacher, California
Lisa Block, Teacher, Jeffco Public Schools, Colorado
Tim Martinez, Teacher, Aurora Public Schools, Colorado
Clifton Nunnally, JLM Educational Consulting Services, Connecticut
Josepoh Ferraiolo, Principal, East Haven Public Schools, Connecticut
Tamara Edney, Teacher, Connecticut
Barbara Harbula, Retired, Delaware
Kelly Arnberger, Superintendent, Belle Plaine Unified School District 357, Kansas
Dione Griffin-Cosse, Grandparent, Louisiana
Barbara Schuler, Grants, Louisiana
Beth Rabbitt, Chief Executive Officer, The Learning Accelerator, Maine
Samantha Cote, Children's Librarian, Windham Public Library, Maine
Michael Schaab, School Board Member, Regional School Unit 3, Thorndike, Maine, Maine
Jeff Bailey, Teacher, Mountain Valley High School, Maine
Pamela Leconte, Maryland
Donna Michel, President, Maryland ASCD, Maryland
G. Travis Miller, Regional Academic Director, Imagine Schools Mid-Atlantic Region, Maryland
Ramona Nirton, District Policy Administrator, Maryland
Heidi Kaminsky, Teacher, Calvert County Public Schools, Maryland
Steve Pellowe, Chief Technology Officer, Silver Lake Regional Schools, Massachusetts
Chris Parker, Chief Technology Officer, Gateway Regional School District, Massachusetts
Adam Steiner, Chief Technology Officer, Maynard Public Schools, Massachusetts
Matthew Joseph, Director of Evaluation, Supervision, Mentoring, and Hiring, Brockton Public Schools, Massachusetts
Jim Flanagan, Director of Business Development, The Modern Classrooms Project, Massachusetts
Lynn Stuart, Community Member, K-12 Leadership Consultant, Massachusetts
Karen Chalfen, Former School Board Member, Massachusetts
Danielle Green, Teacher, Framingham Public Schools, Massachusetts
Ellen Ullman, Owner, UP Creative, LLC, Michigan
Harry Wilson, Consultant, National University, Michigan
Harry Wilson, Consultant, National University, Michigan
Dave Sandum, Chief Technology Officer, Independent School District #197, Minnesota
Rose Quintero, Parent, Eden Prairie School District, Minnesota
Loretta Mortwedt, Teacher, St. James Middle/High School Media Center, Minnesota
Bill Bass, Chief Technology Officer, Parkway School District, Missouri
Rebecca Amelunke, Chief Technology Officer, Arcadia Valley R-II School District, Missouri
Kelly Wales, Principal, Washoe County School District, Nevada
Suzanne Romero, Teacher, Clark County School District, Nevada
Chad Howe, Chief Technology Officer, Newport School District, New Hampshire
Sarah Murray, Digital Learning Specialist, Dunbarton Elementary School, New Hampshire
James Perri, Chief Technology Officer, Benway School, New Jersey
Joseph Evelyn, New Jersey
Chrissie Masi, Supervisor of Educational Technology, Morris School District, New Jersey
Susan Chenelle, Supervisor of Curriculum and Instruction, University Academy Charter High School, New Jersey
Sheila Connelly, Data Specialist, Roxbury Schools, New Jersey
Kerry Weinstein, Teacher, New Jersey
Jeffrey Tull, Chief Technology Officer, Socorro Consolidated Schools, New Mexico
Terri Meier, Director of Education Technology, Rio Rancho Public Schools, New Mexico
John Chadwick, Educational Technology Coordinator, New Mexico Public Education Department, New Mexico
Sarah Rolle, Chief Technology Officer, Rodeph Sholom School, New York
Jamie Haug, Chief Technology Officer, Pearl River School District, New York
Tom Mariano, Chief Technology Officer, Greece Central School District, New York
Cathy Liberatori, Computer Technology Specialist, Sisters of St. Joseph of Brentwood, New York
Elizabeth Schanbacher, Staff Development Specialist, Erie 2 - Chautauqua-Cattaragus Board of Cooperative Educational Services, New York
Sherry Sherrill, Digital Equity Consultant, Covington Associates Consulting | CAC, New York,
Edgar Alfonseca, Administrative Staff, New York City, New York
James Grant, Executive Director, Opus Dance Theatre & Community Services, Inc., New York
Deborah Kross, School Board Member, Citywide Council of High Schools - New York City, New York
Jennifer Jones, Teacher, New York
Marieli Vega, Teacher, Enlarge City School District of Middletown, New York
Sonya Parker, Chief Technology Officer, Weldon City Schools, North Carolina
Larryelle Phillips, Account Executive, Harmony SEL@ National University, North Carolina
Katy Ridnouer, Consultant, KLR Partners, LLC, North Carolina
Nicole Schrock, Chief Technology Officer, Jonathan Alder Schools, Ohio
Katie Ritter, Chief Learning Officer, Forward Edge, Ohio
Brian Seymour, Assistant Superintendent, Whitehall City Schools, Ohio
John Miller, Superintendent (Retired) and School Board Member, Loudonville-Perrysville Exempted Village School District, Ohio
Marlon Styles, Superintendent, Middletown City School District, Ohio
Annie Weiler, Teacher, Columbus City Schools, Ohio
Mark Dougherty, Teacher, Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District, Ohio
Lisa Canon, Oklahoma
Sally Fitz, League of Women Voters, Oklahoma
Marlena Adams, Library Assistant, Howard Eccles Elementary School, Oregon
Craig Gray, Retired, Oregon
Iris Maria Chavez, Director, Oregon Coalition of Community Charter Schools, Oregon
Patrick Burk, Associate Professor Educational Leadership and Policy, Portland State University, Oregon
Ashley Pollard, Digital Inclusion Manager, City of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Tara Desiderio, Principal, East Penn School District, Pennsylvania
Michael Daniels, Superintendent, Canon-McMillan School District, Pennsylvania,
Sandra Shacklady-White, Teacher, Pennsylvania
Michael Sujka, Chief Technology Officer, Westerly Public Schools, Rhode Island
Lori Strickland, Library Media Specialist, Hartsville Memorial Library, South Carolina
Denise Carter-Mobley, Teacher, Richland School District 1, South Carolina
Amy Lyn Reeves, Teacher, Greenville County Schools, South Carolina
Charles Kendrick, Teacher, Greenville County Schools, South Carolina
Susan Welch, Teacher, Jackson-Madison County School System, Tennessee
Michele Herod, Education Technology Specialist, Houston Independent School District, Texas
Brianna Henneke Hodges, Director of Strategic Partnerships, Texas
Paula Alejandro, Instructional Coach, Airport Drive Elementary School, Texas
Carrie Babcock, Liscensed Specialist in School Psychology, Texas
Michelle Harris, Assistant Director for Special Programs, Lumberton Independent School District, Texas
Laurie Humphries, Secondary Instructional Coach, Round Rock Independent School District, Texas
Dan Muirhead, School Board Member, Splendora Independent School District, Texas
Kathy (Librarian) Taylor, Teacher, Northside Independent School District - Timberwilde Elementary School, Texas
Darren Beck, Principal, Canyon Grove Academy, Utah
Tina Scheindel, Chief Technology Officer, Orange Southwest School District, Vermont
Kayla Payne, Chief Technology Officer, Jefferson-Madison Regional Library, Virginia
Jen Silva, Director of External Relations, National Association of Secondary School Principals, Virginia
Jill Abbott, CEO, Abbott Advisor Group, Virginia
Daniel Domenech, Executive Director, AASA The School Superintendents Association, Virginia
Deborah Short, Founder and Director, Academic Language Research & Training, LLC, Virginia
Patrick Hausammann, Coach & Supervisor of Instructional Technology, Clarke County Public Schools, Virginia
Lauren Jenkins, All4Ed, Virginia
Jennifer Manise, Executive Director, Longview Foundation, Virginia
Deborah White, School Business Officer, Goochland County Public Schools, Virginia
Kris Hagel, Chief Technology Officer, Peninsula School District, Washington
Kati Carthum, Alternative Learning and Tech Integration Coordinator, Bremerton School District, Washington
Joan Haynie, Superintendent, Clay County Schools, West Virginia
Kirstin Collins, Chief Technology Officer, Cedarburg School District, Wisconsin
Donna Mae Woelfel, Help Desk Specialist, Cedarburg School District, Wisconsin
John Schiel, IT Systems Administrator, Cedarburg School District, Wisconsin
Erica Topps, Data and Assessment Coordinator, Cedarburg School District, Wisconsin
Amy Engevold, Help Desk Specialist, Cedarburg school district, Wisconsin
Amy Eppinger, Director of Instructional Technology, Portage Community School District, Wisconsin
Jay Posick, Middle School Principal (Retired) & Guest Teacher, Retired, Wisconsin
Jacki Bolwerke, Library Media Specialist, Johnston Elementary School, Wisconsin
Todd Bastian, Superintendent, School District of Benton, Wisconsin
Richard Spicuzza, Superintendent, Prescott School District, Wisconsin
Jodi Rupnow, Teacher, Hamilton School District, Wisconsin