

December 09, 2022

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

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
3468 Rayburn 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 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 Bennett, Teacher, Norfork Public Schools, Arkansas
Lisa Huelle, Teacher, Arkansas
Lisa Davis, Teacher, Bergman High School, Arkansas
David Lauchmen, Teacher, Armed Forces Pacific
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Rebecka Hagerty, Administration Research & Evaluation (Retired), Sacramento City Schools, California
Ellen Palmer, Educational Technology Program Administrator, Pomona Unified School District, California
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Marian Murphy-Shaw, Curriculum Director, Siskiyou County Office Of Education, California
Jean Lovett, Library Media Specialist, Temecula Valley Unified School District, California
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Robert Lenz, CEO, PBLWorks, California
Fatima Cristerna-Adame, Advocacy Director, CCSA, California
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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
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Josepoh Ferraiolo, Principal, East Haven Public Schools, Connecticut
Tamara Edney, Teacher, Connecticut
Barbara Harbula, Retired, Delaware

Eric Valcheff, Community Member, CROCUS LLC, District of Columbia
Coy Nesbitt, Managing Director of Operations, Achievement Prep Academy PCS, District of Columbia
Kellen Flannery, Executive Director, Organizations Concerned About Rural Education, District of Columbia
Arnold Fege, President, Public Advocacy for Kids, District of Columbia
Reid Setzer, Director of Government Affairs, The Education Trust, District of Columbia
Charles Barone, Vice President for K-12 Policy, Education Reform Now, District of Columbia
Rebeca Shackleford, Former Teacher and School Board Member, District of Columbia
Junell Mccall, Florida
Linda Colombo-Bonikowski, Graduation Coach, Inlet Grove Community High School, Florida
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Winifer Mercado, Relationship Manager, 525 Technologies, Georgia
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H Mitchell Dolier, Teach for America Board Member, Harold K.L. Castle Foundation, Hawaii
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Cheryl Piercy, Chief Technology Officer, River Bend Community Unit School District, Illinois
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Tom Kinane, Chief Technology Officer, Elmwood Park Community Unit School District, Illinois
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Elise Goeden, Library Media Specialist, Berkeley School District 87, Illinois
John Chrastka, Executive Director, EveryLibrary, Illinois
Sharonne Brown, Lead coach, Chicago Public Schools, Illinois
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Michael Lubelfeld, Superintendent, North Shore School District 112, Illinois
Gary Doughan, Superintendent, Saunemin Community Consolidated School District # 438, Illinois
Todd Dugan, Superintendent, Bunker Hill Community Unit School District #8, Illinois
Rachel Burke, President of Indiana PTA, Indiana PTA, Indiana
Lisa Anderson, Educator (Retired), Indiana
Randi Renninger, Grandparent, Indiana
Heather Starks, Principal, Christel House DORS, Indiana
Rachel Burke, School Board Member, Metropolitan School District Warren Township, Indiana
Kim Amor, Teacher, Fairfield Community Schools, Indiana
Gwen Lehman, Chief Technology Officer, Fort Larned School District, Kansas

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
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Adam Steiner, Chief Technology Officer, Maynard Public Schools, Massachusetts
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Harry Wilson, Consultant, National University, Michigan
Dave Sandum, Chief Technology Officer, Independent School District #197, Minnesota
Rose Quintero, Parent, Eden Prairie School District, Minnesota
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Suzanne Romero, Teacher, Clark County School District, Nevada
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Tom Mariano, Chief Technology Officer, Greece Central School District, New York
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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
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Mark Dougherty, Teacher, Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District, Ohio
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Craig Gray, Retired, Oregon
Iris Maria Chavez, Director, Oregon Coalition of Community Charter Schools, Oregon
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Charles Kendrick, Teacher, Greenville County Schools, South Carolina
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Paula Alejandro, Instructional Coach, Airport Drive Elementary School, Texas
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Darren Beck, Principal, Canyon Grove Academy, Utah

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Erica Topps, Data and Assessment Coordinator, Cedarburg School District, Wisconsin

Amy Engevoid, Help Desk Specialist, Cedarburg school district, Wisconsin

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Jay Posick, Middle School Pincipal (Retired) & Guest Teacher, Retired, Wisconsin

Jacki Bolwerk, 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