

# Communications Daily

## FCC Gets Broad Support for Off-Campus E-rate Petition

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Let E-rate funds be used for remote learning, providers, industry and advocacy groups told the FCC in comments posted Wednesday in docket 21-31 on a petition led by the Schools, Health & Libraries Broadband Coalition (see [2101260055](#)). Granting this petition would “further the public interest by meeting pressing educational needs, and do so without jeopardizing public health,” [said](#) Amazon, echoed by Microsoft and [Apple](#). The homework gap has “grown into a remote learning gulf,” [said](#) Microsoft. Wireless internet access should also play a “critical role” in connecting students, as weekly wireless data use increased nearly 30% since July, [said](#) the Competitive Carriers Association, which CTIA [echoed](#). The temporary request should be “administratively and financially separate from the traditional E-rate program,” because it would “likely substantially increase the amount of funding,” [said](#) AT&T. Consider a “supplemental application window” to support off-campus E-rate support, Verizon [suggested](#). Speed is essential, and rules should be simplified for schools interested in applying E-rate funds for off-campus use, [said](#) USTelecom, which NCTA [echoed](#).

**Allow flexibility in how E-rate funds are used to meet the needs of schools and students, [said](#) New America, Public Knowledge, Consumer Reports, the Benton Institute for Broadband & Society and Access Humboldt. "Declare that so long as remote learning connections and services are used primarily for educational purposes, cost allocation is unnecessary during the pandemic emergency and through the end of the 2021 E-Rate fiscal year." Existing mechanisms "afford the commission the ability to address this extraordinary need created by the pandemic," [said](#) ACA Connects.**