



September 1, 2016

Dear Secretary Skandera,

Please accept this letter of support for the Governor's Broadband Initiative. The NMCEL and this office support the initiative as it seeks to bring statewide broadband coverage to all school districts in New Mexico in a cost effective and fully functional method.

We particularly support the permissive nature within the initiative design which allows districts to participate when it meets their needs while allowing districts to continue making local determinations in their e-rate applications and funding. We understand the strength of this initiative is its ability to make far reaching impact on the fiber delivery systems to public schools and seeks to leverage resources that do not compete with local district funds. This forward thinking initiative should provide our children in New Mexico with equivalent access across all 89 districts.

Furthermore, our members recognize that the service cost for internet access is the leading financial barrier to achieving the goal of 1 Mbps per student by fall 2018. The state's development of a statewide price agreement, also known as the Procurement Optimization Model strategy -- reflected in this RFP -- will create a new opportunity for districts to find the lowest price possible for high speed internet access services. School districts are understandably excited to see the RFP state price agreement results. This method will also lessen the administrative burden associated with contract renewals for districts.

I look forward to further collaboration in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stan Rounds", followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Stan Rounds
Executive Director

Cc: File

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