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For Immediate Release

**FCC UNANIMOUSLY APPROVES EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE TO
RESTORE CONNECTIVITY IN HURRICANE-AFFECTED SCHOOLS
AND LIBRARIES**

Assistance Provided Through FCC's E-rate Program

WASHINGTON, October 30, 2017—The Federal Communications Commission has unanimously approved emergency assistance to restore connectivity in schools and libraries affected by Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria through the agency's E-rate program.

E-rate helps fund broadband connectivity in the nation's schools and libraries. The emergency E-rate support will help schools and libraries located in the areas most severely impacted by the hurricanes quickly restore connectivity lost in the storms, and assist schools that are incurring additional costs because they are serving displaced students.

Schools and libraries directly impacted by the storms will be able to request additional funding for restoration of broadband services, and receive the maximum E-rate discount on services — a 90% discount for broadband connectivity and an 85% discount for Wi-Fi and internal networks. They will also be provided increased program flexibility as they work to restore services. Schools that are serving storm-displaced students who increase total enrollment by 5% or more may also apply for additional funding to defray increased costs.

The FCC also enacted measures to protect against waste, fraud, and abuse during the recovery effort. The emergency rules will not apply to future E-rate funding years absent further action by the FCC.

In the hardest hit areas in Texas, Florida, Georgia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, schools and libraries have either been destroyed or shut down indefinitely or have begun a long process of rebuilding and replacing the facilities and equipment necessary to serve their students. The relief provided by the Commission is an important step in the nation's response to these disasters.

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This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action. See MCI v. FCC, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Cir. 1974).