



NEWS

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D. C. 20554

News Media Information 202 / 418-0500
Internet: <http://www.fcc.gov>
TTY: 1-888-835-5322

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. Circ 1974).

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
April 24, 2002

NEWS MEDIA CONTACT:
Jordan Goldstein at (202) 418-2000

STATEMENT OF COMMISSIONER MICHAEL J. COPPS

Re: Request for Review of the Decision of the Universal Service Administrator by Information Technology Department, State of North Dakota, Bismarck, North Dakota, DA 02-956

Hundreds of schools and libraries successfully filed electronic applications for E-Rate discounts within the filing window, but failed to mail a signed certification until after the window had closed. As a result, these schools and libraries -- including many rural and poor schools in North Dakota, Puerto Rico, and numerous other places -- were denied discounts to connect their classrooms and libraries to the Internet. I am troubled when so many deserving schools are denied funding, particularly as in this case, when the rules were changed and are being applied for the first time. Given these facts, I would have supported granting a one-time waiver to provide funding to these schools and libraries.

- FCC -