



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION ANNOUNCES PLAN TO LAUNCH \$9 BILLION 5G FUND FOR RURAL AMERICA

Your Rural Schools Association has been advocating for a dramatically increased federal investment in 5G connectivity in our rural areas. That plan is now underway. Today the FCC announced the start of a 5G Fund that will focus on bringing the most advanced wireless services to rural areas.

The FCC is establishing a new 5G Fund, which would make up to \$9 billion in Universal Service Fund support available to carriers to deploy advanced 5G mobile wireless services in rural America. This major investment in rural America would target hard-to-serve areas with sparse populations and/or rugged terrain. The \$9 billion Fund also would set aside at least \$1 billion specifically for deployments facilitating precision agriculture needs. “5G has the potential to bring many benefits to American consumers and businesses, including wireless networks that are more responsive, more secure, and up to 100 times faster than today’s 4G LTE networks,” said Chairman Pai. “We want to make sure that rural Americans enjoy these benefits, just as residents of large urban areas will. In order to do that, the Universal Service Fund must be forward-looking and support the networks of tomorrow. Moreover, America’s farms and ranches have unique wireless connectivity needs, as I’ve seen across the country. That’s why I will move forward as quickly as possible to establish a 5G Fund that would bring next-generation 5G services to rural areas and would reserve some of that funding for 5G networks that promote precision agriculture. We must ensure that 5G narrows rather than widens the digital divide.”

RSA will continue its advocacy to urge other investments in connectivity as well. The current pandemic did nothing if not identify the discrepancy in digital learning capability between our rural and suburban areas. Whether it’s E-Rate, Smart Schools Bond Act, or the Universal Service Fund, RSA will continue actively supporting efforts to make sure we never face another crisis without sufficient electronic capabilities.

NYSUT CHAT ON RURAL SCHOOL ISSUES COMING UP

The pandemic has done a great deal to highlight inequities in school funding, broadband connectivity, transportation and meal distribution and a host of other rural issues. The issues have always been there, but the shift from schools and work to the home as school and workplace have forced both the media and state leaders to acknowledge the need for greater

equity and efficiency in the way the state approaches the delivery of services in our rural areas.

This Sunday evening, New York State United Teachers will host a social media discussion on these issues. NYSUT is hosting a Twitter Chat on Sunday night April 26 at 7:00 p.m. EST. Please join **@NYSUTEVP #NYSUTchat** for a conversation about access and equity and the power of community schools.



**Join #NYSUTchat
Sunday, April 26,
7PM EST**

A conversation about
access and equity in
education and the power
of community schools.

**#TakeALookAtTeaching
#NYSUTchat**

THE IMPACT OF THE CRISIS ON FARM TO SCHOOL

As we adjust to new circumstances in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, your RSA and our partners at the Farm to School Coalition remain dedicated to supporting you in buying more New York grown food, and to helping you reach the 30% required for state funding this year. On [April 30th from 2:00-3:30pm](#), the Coalition will be hosting **a call specifically for Food Service Directors at K-12 schools** currently working toward reaching 30% local purchasing to qualify for the extra 19 cent reimbursement from the state next year. This call will give us the opportunity to hear how COVID has effected your efforts, answer your questions, and help you strategize how to stay on track in the coming months to capture this much needed extra revenue. If a majority of food service directors feel there should be an administrative change to the program in light of COVID so that all of your hard work getting to 30% leading up to March isn't derailed by the crisis, we will discuss that too. We hope you'll join us! To register



and share your challenges, success stories, and how COVID has affected your efforts, please click [this link](#)!

It will be critical to get as many food service directors who are going after the 30% involved in this conversation as possible to ensure that any request we decide to make (if we do) has consensus agreement from the whole community.

Please Join the Farm to School Coalition on 30% NYS Farm to School Initiative in light of COVID, Thursday, April 30th 2-3:30pm