

OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Order Instituting Rulemaking to
Consider Modifications to the
California Advanced Services Fund.

Rulemaking 12-10-012

**OPENING COMMENTS OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION TO ORDER INSTITUTING RULEMAKING 12-10-012
MARCH 26, 2020 ASSIGNED COMMISSIONER RULING**

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April 9, 2020

**MOTION OF THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
REQUESTING PARTY STATUS AND OPENING COMMENTS**

I. Introduction

In accordance with Rule 6.2 of the California Public Utilities Commission (“Commission”) Rules of Practice and Procedure (“Rules”), the California Department of Education (“CDE”) submits opening comments to the Order Instituting Rulemaking 12-10-012 (“Rulemaking”), and respectfully moves for party status in this proceeding.

Recent surveys conducted on behalf of CDE on the needs of California Schools have shown that nearly 188,000 students are lacking home connectivity and nearly 203,000 students are lacking a device to connect to in order to participate in a digital distance learning experience. While federal E-Rate funding does not allow for home connectivity and devices, if there was funding available to schools from other funding streams, it would be very helpful during this crisis. Based on existing structures between the CDE and County offices of education, if funds from the California Advanced Services Fund (“CASF”) were available for hotspots and devices, then if we would suggest that the CDE be a recipient of the funds. Student devices generally start at cost of \$250-\$300. Then the CDE would be willing to disseminate resources directly to students who are identified as needing it most in schools through the County offices of education. This would provide very immediate help to struggling schools and students to address the impacts of COVID-19 and the new digital learning environment our students and schools are in.

II. California Department of Education’s Interest in this Proceeding.

The California Department of Education's participation in this proceeding is necessary in order to give a voice to public education and the schools in California. It is possible that the California Department of Education will identify other areas relevant to the interests of its constituencies as the proceeding unfolds.

II. Notice

Service of notices, orders, and other correspondence in this proceeding should be directed to California Department of Education at the address set forth below:

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III. Conclusion

California Department of Education's participation in this proceeding will not prejudice any party, and will not delay the schedule or broaden the scope of the issues in the proceeding. For the reasons stated above, California Department of Education respectfully requests that the Commission grant California Department of Education party status.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: April 9, 2020

/s/ Jerry Winkler
Jerry Winkler, Director
Education Data Management Division
California Department of Education