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TASA

Texas Association of School Administrators

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August 14, 2012

Senate Committee on Business & Commerce
P.O. Box 12068
SHB 370
Austin, Texas 78711

RE: Interim Study Charge Relating to Telecommunications
Service Discounts

Dear Honorable Members of the Committee:

The Texas Association of School Administrators ("TASA") strongly supports the continuation of the state telecommunications discount for public school districts that was extended until 2016 by Senate Bill 773 during the 82nd Texas Legislature.

For many years, the telecommunications discount has been pivotal in helping public schools provide digital services to all of their students. As Texas continues to lead the nation in job growth, it is important all public school students have the necessary resources to be competitive in an international economy. Continuing the discount program will help public schools avoid cutting valuable programs and positions. Importantly, it will also allow public schools to provide needed services at a time when funding for public education has been drastically cut by \$5.4 billion. Eliminating the discount may result in unanticipated budgetary consequences for many public schools.

The telecommunications discount is a wise investment in the future of Texas. TASA urges your continued support of the program so that all public school children become digital citizens and make noteworthy contributions to our society.

Sincerely,

Ramiro Canales
Assistant Executive Director
Governmental Relations