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## NECA Unveils Offerings Aimed at Low-Income, At-Home Students

The FCC and the National Exchange Carrier Association, Inc., announced the effective date today of NECA tariff changes aimed at helping students from low-income households engaged in remote learning during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The tariff changes will enable the rural and small carriers that use the NECA tariff to offer “a temporary discount on certain new broadband services or a speed upgrade at no additional charge on certain existing broadband service from 1/6 to 50/100 [megabits per second] (asymmetric digital subscriber line) or from 10/10 to 100/100 Mbps (symmetric digital subscriber line),” NECA explained.

“Households with a student in grades kindergarten through 12 who qualify for a reduced cost or free lunch through the National School Lunch Program are eligible,” NECA added.

FCC Chairman Ajit Pai said, “I applaud the hundreds of NECA members that are committed to helping low-income students in their service areas connect and stay connected to the Internet. With the continued reliance upon remote learning in many parts of the country, students need connectivity to learn from and communicate with their teachers and classmates. I’m pleased the Commission worked with these rural carriers to enable more low-income students in their communities to benefit from cheaper, faster broadband service.” —Lynn Stanton, [lynn.stanton@wolterskluwer.com](mailto:lynn.stanton@wolterskluwer.com)

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