

I want to make you aware of a serious matter concerning the Instructional Television Fixed Service (ITFS) spectrum, and I am hopeful that you can help.

We are quite concerned that the ITFS spectrum has been targeted as a possible location for the development of 3rd Generation Cellular Service. As the Commission clearly noted in its March 30, 2001, report, the ITFS system is a constantly evolving system that could only be moved at the significant expense of the incumbent users. Accordingly, we urge the Commission to avoid such relocation.

The Santa Clara County Office of Education (SCCOE) uses the ITFS system to enhance our curriculum instruction. We use the system to:

- * support classroom instruction with appropriate grade level programming;
- * support school staff with staff development and administrative seminars; and
- * provide staff development to three other counties in our region.

Additionally, the SCCOE uses ITFS to communicate information delivered via satellite from the Governor and the California Department of Education to educators in our region. Our ITFS system also supports the San Jose Fire Department by delivering training and educational seminars to fire stations throughout the City, thereby allowing personnel to remain at their assigned stations. And shortly, the two-way ITFS system will allow Silicon Valley schools wireless, broadband access to the Internet.

There are over 100 ITFS-licensed educational institutions throughout California. The list includes public and private K-12 schools and universities. Innumerable schools, students, teachers, administrators, health and safety personnel are the beneficiaries of this spectrum, and this system works in the day-to-day lessons in our classrooms. Any threat to the future of the ITFS spectrum, in essence, threatens the quality of public education.

As the Commission searches for a location for the development of 3G services, I urge that it not come at the expense of ITFS and the students, faculty and community members we serve.

Thank you very much for allowing me the opportunity to share these concerns with you.

Sincerely,
Colleen B. Wilcox, Ph.D.
County Superintendent of Schools
Santa Clara County Office of Education