

**EXECUTIVE ORDER #317**

**Relating to the Implementation of the Federal Communication Commission's  
Universal Service Fund Order**

**WHEREAS**, in the Telecommunications Act of 1996, Congress directed the Federal Communications Commission and states to establish support mechanisms to ensure the delivery of affordable telecommunications services; and

**WHEREAS**, the Federal Communications Commission has established a \$2.25 billion universal service fund program to support telecommunications services for schools and libraries; and

**WHEREAS**, the program will provide discounts of between 20% and 90% to eligible public and private schools and libraries on telecommunications services, internet services, and internal connections; and

**WHEREAS**, realizing these benefits require Wisconsin's eligible schools and libraries to annually submit applications for these discounts; and

**WHEREAS**, the Federal Communications Commission requires state certification of technology plans as a precondition for applying for discounts; and

**WHEREAS**, the Federal Communications Commission does not identify the state entity responsible for certifying the technology plans of eligible applicants; and

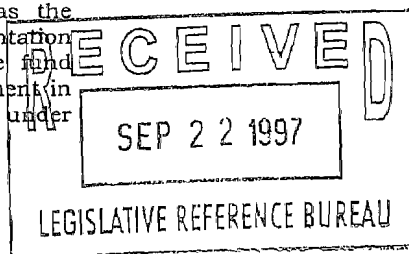
**WHEREAS**, coordination among the several affected state agencies, eligible schools and libraries, and cooperative educational service agencies is vitally necessary for the implementation of this program in Wisconsin;

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, TOMMY G. THOMPSON**, Governor of the State of Wisconsin, by the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of this State, do hereby:

1. Direct the Department of Administration (hereinafter the "Department") to coordinate and oversee the activities of executive branch agencies related to the implementation of the Federal Communications Commission's universal service fund program for schools and libraries in Wisconsin.

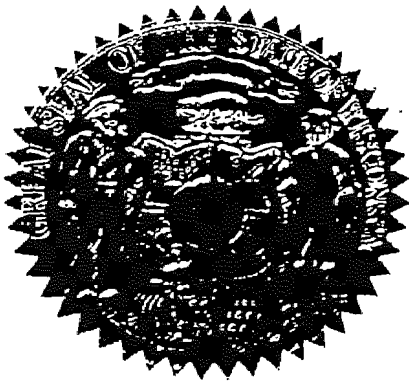
2. Require the Department to provide for the efficient and timely certification of technology plans for eligible schools and libraries in order to support applications for federal discounts and to maximize the benefits to schools and libraries under the federal universal service fund program.

3. Instruct the Department to take such other actions as the Department deems appropriate in the coordination and implementation of the Federal Communication Commission's universal service fund program. Other state agencies shall cooperate with the Department in the coordination and implementation of this program as provided under section 20.901 (1) of the Wisconsin Statutes.




4. Direct the Department to provide for the certification of technology plans approved by the Department of Public Instruction under the federal Technology Literacy Challenge Fund.

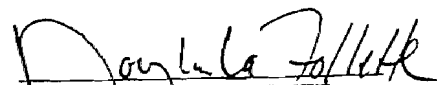
5. Instruct the Department to perform the above listed duties in accordance with all applicable federal and state laws, rules and regulations.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Madison this sixteenth day of September in the year one thousand nine hundred ninety seven.

  
TOMMY G. THOMPSON  
Governor

By the Governor:

  
DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE  
Secretary of State