October 23, 2017

To Whom It May Concern:

The E-Rate Category 2 funding for Wi-Fi and internal connections is extremely valuable to Gates County Schools. We are a small, rural school district with limited state and local funding and we definitely do not have the resources that many other districts in the state have. Without the Category 2 funding, it would have been very difficult to provide the quality learning experience that our students and staff deserve.

We have used most of our E-rate Category 2 allotment for network switches and access points. Prior to receiving the Category 2 funding, the majority of our network equipment was at least 15 years old. Our wireless capability was also severely limited. The connectivity provided by the Category 2 items has improved our district’s educational experience by: 1) providing more bandwidth to classrooms allowing students and teachers to take advantage of multimedia instructional resources; and by 2) increasing the speed and range of the wireless networks at each school to support more mobile devices for learning. We are most appreciative of the Category 2 funding and hope to have the opportunity to apply for it again in the future.

Sincerely,

John L. Smith, III

Director of Technology

Gates County Public Schools