

**Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20554**

In the Matter of)	
)	
Petition for Waiver of Commission Rules)	CC Docket No. 02-6
by)	
)	
La Villa Independent School District)	File No. FCC Form 471 Application
)	Number 181041757
Schools and Libraries Universal Service)	
Support Mechanism)	
)	

To: Federal Communications Commission

**LA VILLA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
PETITION FOR WAIVER**

Pursuant to Section 54.719(c) of the Federal Communications Commission's ("FCC") rules,¹ La Villa Independent School District ("La Villa")² hereby requests that the Commission waive the FCC Form 471 ("Form 471") filing window deadline in Section 54.507(c) of its rules.³

La Villa completed the last of its four Forms 471 in the E-rate Productivity Center ("EPC") on March 22, 2018.⁴ However, it failed to certify its final application prior to the midnight eastern time deadline.

The District ultimately certified the Form 471, though it was three minutes past the midnight deadline. Each of La Villa's other Forms 471 were timely filed and certified.

The Commission has routinely waived its rules for applicants filing their Forms 471 after the USAC-established deadline. In the *Acorn Public Library District Order*, for example, the Commission granted waivers of the filing window deadline to applicants that filed their Forms 471 late but within 14 days after the deadline.⁵ The Commission found that such a violation was procedural rather than substantive in nature, and therefore, a complete rejection of the applications was not warranted. The Commission noted that applications filed within 14 days were filed close enough to the deadline so as not to impair the administration of the E-rate program. The Commission also found that, in the absence of waste, fraud or abuse, misuse of funds, or a failure to adhere to core program requirements, rigid adherence to filing procedures would not serve the public interest. Therefore, according to the Commission, good cause existed to grant the requests for waiver of the FCC Form 471 filing window deadline.

¹ See 47 C.F.R. § 54.719(c).

² Billed Entity Number 141655.

³ See 47 C.F.R. § 54.507 (Requiring the Administrator to implement a filing period and to determine dates on which the filing period shall begin and conclude).

⁴ FCC Form 471 Application Number 181041757.

⁵ *Requests for Waiver and Review of Decisions of the Universal Service Administrator by Acorn Public Library District, et al., Schools and Libraries Universal Service Support Mechanism*, File Nos. SLD-637819, et al., CC Docket No. 02-6, Order, 23 FCC Rcd 15474 (Wireline Comp. Bur. 2008).

More recently, in the *Academy of Math and Science Order*, the Commission reiterated that the filing of the Form 471 late but within two weeks after the deadline constituted a special circumstance justifying a waiver.⁶

Consistent with this precedent, the Commission should grant the instant petition for waiver. La Villa completed the Form 471 at issue in EPC prior to the deadline. It simply certified the form – the last of its four applications – three minutes after the deadline. Given the facts and circumstances of this case, together with prior Commission precedent, there are ample grounds to grant the requested relief.

RELIEF SOUGHT

For the foregoing reasons, La Villa respectfully requests that the Commission waive Section 54.507(c) of its rules and direct USAC to process the application.

Respectfully submitted,

Monica Mata
mmata@lavillaisd.org
(956) 262-4755

La Villa Independent School District
P.O. Box 9
La Villa, TX 78562

April 2, 2018

⁶ *Requests for Waiver and Review of Decisions of the Universal Service Administrator by Academy of Math and Science et al.; Schools and Libraries Universal Service Support Mechanism*, CC Docket No. 02-6, Order, 25 FCC Rcd 9256 (2010).