

Rationale for Waiver Request:

We, the REACH Academy, are the intended recipients of E-Rate funds in this matter as presented for review and consideration.

During the E-Rate 470 and 471 filing window, I had the responsibility of filing for our school. As the REACH Director, I had assumed responsibility since we had recently lost the person originally tasked to comply with E-Rate filings. I was new to the E-Rate system and completely unaware of the specific deadlines and other requirements. The forms, acronyms and deadlines were brand new to me so I was flying by the seat of my pants.

While learning the process, I had filed the 470 in November 2017, but erroneously, for the wrong year. I was notified of my error on March 1, 2018. During the conversation, I was advised to refile the 470 for the correct year, and that it needed to be open for 28 days. I was also told that this would be completing the process outside the 471 filing deadline, but I should apply for a waiver. To further complicate the process, communications between USAC, our provider and our school continued to be sent to the person who had left. This communication problem has since been resolved. Once that had been corrected, I was able to continue the process of filing proper forms to get back on-track, but I still needed to submit this waiver request. I have since hired a person, knowledgeable with E-Rate, to assist us moving forward.

The REACH Academy is seeking FCC waiver approval of our form 471 (application #181042471) filed outside the filing window. We need this approval so we can seek E-Rate funding for fiber installation to our single building/school so instruction can take full advantage of high speed internet access for our students and staff.

Thank you for your consideration.