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July 18, 2016

RE: E-Rates Program Missed Deadline Appeal

To Whom It May Concern,

Thank-you for this opportunity to appeal the missed E-Rate Program Application Deadline of May 26 of this year. The purpose of this letter is to explain the reason we missed the deadline and ask that you would consider accepting us as participants of the E-Rate Program for the 2016-2017 school year.

We are a new charter school, approved to open last fall by the Arkansas Department of Education Charter Authorizing Panel. We opened with 140 students grades K-6. This August we will be adding three classrooms for a total of 200 students.

With only 140 students last year, funding for technology support was very limited. We did not have an IT person on staff other than a very part-time contracted person who set up our wifi and computer lab. Due to a lack of knowledge and information, we were not even aware of the existence of the E-Rate program until late in the school year. Our finance office is one person who is trying to handle all deadlines on her own, unfortunately the Form 471 deadline was over looked.

Our school has very limited resources for technology. Phone bills are much higher than what we had originally expected and budgeted. The wifi access points we set up were inadequate for classroom needs and need to be replaced. These are just a couple of areas that we are struggling in. The funds that could be provided by E-Rates will allow us to use our technology budget to purchase more computers and pay for more IT assistance so our students can be successful.

Thank-you again for considering our appeal. We hope you will waive the deadline and consider our application for the coming school year.

Sincerely,

Christine Silano, Ph.D.

Executive Director

Ozark Education, Inc.