APPEAL REQUEST STRONGSVILLE CITY SCHOOLS

BEN 129507

471 APP # 161015530

FRN 1699027274

We would like to appeal the waiver request which was denied initially by the FCC for the FY16 BEAR Form deadline, which we did not meet due to the following circumstances.

A new vendor contract for internet access was signed 2/2016. The district was not aware that this vendor does not direct bill Erate for services like their prior ISP vendors had and as a result, the district did not file a BEAR Form for this service.

The Treasurer’s office did not realize this money had not been received until their fiscal year end audit (5/2018), which is conducted prior to July 1 (school district’s fiscal years end on June 30).

The deadline to file was end of October 2017, but the error was not discovered until the Treasurer audited their records in May 2018.

The original school district contact person had left the district just prior to the Form 472 filing in July 2017 and the contact email and address on the online Form 472 had not been changed. That person had left the district and their email address had been deleted. As a result, the BEAR Notification letters and quarterly payment notifications were not being received by the new contact person in the district. Personnel in the Treasurer’s office had also changed so even though the Bear disbursement letter was sent, there was no way for them to know of the error until the Treasurer conducted the school year fiscal year-end audit.

The Form 471 and Form 486 were filed prior to the deadlines and were both approved.

We are asking for your consideration to waive the deadline requirement and allow us to file a BEAR form for this service now so the district can obtain the funding for which they were approved. Thank you.