FCC:

To Whom it may Concern:

This appeal is in regards to FY2018 Form 471 # 181039708 for Miami Union Academy.

Miami Union Academy’s BEN is # 201173.

We are the new consultant acting on behalf of the applicant. We kindly request that you re-consider Appeal# 127267 in regards to this application.

Prior to contracting with our company, the Miami Union Academy E-rate process was being handled by Shelley Garner, one of their teachers.

The original determination should be re-considered for multiple reasons.

1. During the FY2018 PIA review process, the PIA initial reviewer reached out to verify the schools’ NSLP information that translated to a discount of 80%. The school provided valid documentation from the Florida Department of Agriculture to support their NSLP data and verify the 80% discount. The initial reviewer erroneously reduced the school’s discount rate to 20% regardless of this.
2. Ms. Garner and the school did appeal this decision, but the appeal was not considered because it was filed outside of the 60 day timeframe. The FCDL was issued July 6, 2018, meaning the appeal was due September 4, 2018. The late appeal should be reconsidered as it occurred to due to special circumstances, outlined here:
   1. The school was undergoing a major renovation that began in 2017. In May of 2018, the computer systems in the classrooms began to be replaced, followed in July by the main offices.
   2. This resulted in delays to the school opening, as inspections needed to be conducted and certifications received.
   3. School started late in 2018, with students returning to classrooms in the beginning of October.
   4. Although classes resumed, Connectivity issues remained and there was limited access to computers and Wi-Fi.
   5. At this time, with at least some computers operational, Ms. Garner finally was able to access the FCDL. She then submitted the appeal, but the deadline had already passed.

We respectively ask that the original decision and the appeal decision be waived and that review of the discount be reconsidered. The additional documentation provided here, which was originally provided during the review process, clearly indicates that the school is eligible for an 80% discount.

Further, please take into consideration that Miami Union Academy is a small school, with financial challenges, and are not able to pay for the requested services without USAC help. If the school does not receive the full, correct funding amount of 80%, the service provider will in fact most likely terminate the contract. Please respectively reconsider this appeal for the school.