

**Applicant: West Carroll Parish School District – BEN 139320**

**FCC 471 Application: 191015891**

**Funding Request Number: 1999021725**

## **SUMMARY OF REQUEST**

The West Carroll Parish FRN 1999021725 was denied because the school district was in Red Light status. Within 2 business days of the District being made aware they were in Red Light status, the debt was paid. The District appealed the FCDL decision to the USAC. In spite of providing proof that the District was no longer in Red Light status, the USAC denied the appeal stating that we “have not shown that the USAC’s determination was incorrect.” There is no evidence of waste, fraud or abuse of the fund. We respectfully request that the Commission grant the appeal and return the FRN to the USAC for funding.

## **BACKGROUND**

Below are the facts that pertain to this:

- The District received a COMAD Letter on December 17, 2018 (Attachment 1) informing the District that \$1,338.75 had been distributed in error and the funds needed to be returned to the USAC.
- The District researched the issue and agreed that the funds pertained to a school that was over its Category 2 budget.
- The letter stated that **no action was required now** but that we would receive a Demand Payment Letter in the coming months.
- The District and the consultant were anticipating receipt of the Demand Payment Letter. However, the Superintendent, to whom the letter was addressed, has no knowledge of receiving this letter. Their consultant did not receive any communication, through the EPC News Feed or email, of the Demand Payment Letter.
- On May 16, 2019, the West Carroll Parish School District learned that FRN 1999021725 on 471 application 191015891 was being denied because the District was in Red Light status. (Attachment 2)
- The District had no knowledge of being in Red Light status prior to the denial.
- Their consultant called the Customer Service Bureau to try to understand what was going on. The CSB provided a copy of the Demand Payment Letter to the consultant through Case #275161. (Attachment 1)
- The District acted promptly and made the payment to the USAC within two business days on May 21, 2019. (Attachment 3)
- The District filed Appeal #146035 (Attachment 4) to request reversal of the decision on this FCDL since the District was no longer in Red Light status. This appeal was denied through an RFCDL issued on September 18, 2019. (Attachment 4).

- The reason for the denial was that the school district was in Red Light status and that the applicant had “not shown that USAC’s determination was incorrect. You have been delinquent on your non-tax debt(s) owed to the FCC.”
- The District was not delinquent nor were they in Red Light status.

#### **REQUESTED ACTION**

We respectfully request that the Commission grant this appeal and return the FRN to the USAC for funding for the following reasons:

- The applicant has always been in good standing with the E-rate program.
- The Red Light status resulted from lack of or missed communications from the USAC.
- The applicant acted promptly to rectify the Red Light status as soon as it was made aware of it.
- There is no evidence of waste, fraud or abuse of the fund.

Sincerely,

Karen Allen, Certified E-rate Management Professional (CEMP)

President – Allen & Allen Consulting, LLC

E-rate Management Professionals Association

Please see the following list of attachments:

Attachment 1 – West Carroll Parish COMAD Letter & Demand Payment Letter

Attachment 2 – West Carroll Parish SCH DIST Funding Commitment Decision Letter

Attachment 3 – West Carroll Parish – Proof of Payment and Green Light

Attachment 4 – Appeal #146035 & RFCDL