

MM93-48

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From: Unprivileged user <nobody@wwa.com>
To: A16.A16(KIDSTV)
Date: 10/7/95 4:12am
Subject: Give Away of Television Frequencies

OCT 10 1995

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

I think we should slow down giving away the public airway frequencies for pennies on the dollar. Is there something wrong with having a true auction?

I have watched on TV how these auctions are done, and I how much of the frequency spectrum is being given away with such things as Cellar Phone Industry. These are one time sales, we might say forever. Is there some reason that the companies do not pay higher amounts for a live time of frequency spectrum?

I could see the price that we are giving away these frequencies if it was for say 10 years, but we should be getting 10 times what we are getting.

Robert Partigianoni
101 Nelda Street
Leesville, LA 71446
(318) 239-7613

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robert.partigianoni@dtx-bbs.com

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MM93-48

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OCT 10 1995

From: Unprivileged user <nobody@wwa.com>
To: A16.A16(KIDSTV)
Date: 10/9/95 12:39am
Subject: Television Frequencies

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

This country is based on free market principles.

People who wish to use something, should have to pay for it, unless there are overriding reasons not to.

The only reason I can think of that television broadcasters would not pay for the use of their broadcast frequencies is if their lobby has undue influence. Any subsidies should be given directly to organizations deserving them, rather than slipping them through the cracks of the tax code and things like free use of the airways.

P.S. PBS deserves a direct subsidy much more than most of the stations deserve free use of the airways.

Thanks for your consideration,

Ken Flagg
759 Sonrisa Street
Solana Beach, CA 92075 kflagg@connectnet.com

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OCT 10 1995

From: Gary R. Mueller <gmueller@TSO.Cin.IX.net>
To: A16.A16(kidstv)
Date: 10/9/95 3:06pm
Subject: Children's TV

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

Regarding proposed new federal rules that will define children's educational television and require broadcasters to air a minimum of such programming each week:

I oppose this proposal on several points.

First, it will mandate actions to be taken by broadcasters that may be detrimental when compared to market forces. Such a result would be a financial limitation on broadcasters.

Second, it seems inherently dangerous to mandate programming. In my opinion, it is tantamount to the federal government defining public interests where they have no business to do so.

Third, it is yet another page of regulatory mandates placed on the American people at a time when the general feeling in the country is that we are being over-regulated already in both business and private affairs.

Sincerely,

Gary R. Mueller

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OCT 10 1995

From: DAN S SULPICE <NDBC76F@prodigy.com>
To: A16.A16(kidstv)
Date: 10/9/95 3:40pm
Subject: MM Docket 93-48

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
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As officials look at ways to strengthen programming under the Children's Television Act, you need to look hard at Gay & Lesbian programming. There is a paltry representation of Gays on Children's TV and much homophobia! I ask you to demand that networks combat homophobia and provide fair and accurate representation of Gays in their programming.

Thank You

Dan Sulpice

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OCT 10 1995

From: Philip Florian <fil@TSO.Cin.IX.net>
To: A16.A16(kidstv)
Date: 10/9/95 5:20pm
Subject: Kids Tv

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

The government is about to mandate that all TV stations play a minimum amount of educational television. Why? Really, why? If educational television is what brought in money to a TV station, they would do it. But, since there isn't a plethora educational television shows, it must mean there must not be a real strong market for it. Which means, finally, that why, if no one is watching it now, would parents all of a sudden begin to watch? No good reason.

There is already far too many parents using the TV as a cheap babysitter. Why encourage it? We have PBS, which has some fine educational TV for those who want it...but we need no more. What the FCC could do is promote the already good shows that are out there. If that. Or, better yet, it should back out. Let the parents know that it is their responsibility to raise their children, not the government. Parents can do just fine without regulated wholesomeness, the V-Chip, etc etc... We as a society have gone soft on parents, allowing them to blame just about everybody else for their failings as parents. It is the school teachers, it is bad TV, it is violent movies, it is the government. Enough, already. It is the parents choice to have a child...and they should bear the responsibility.

So, please, back off. Let the business of television take care of itself and let parents do their job.

Thanks,

Philip Florian

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OCT 10 1995

From: Mary Lou Benton <1991077%UNIVSCVM.BITNET@VTBIT.CC.VT.EDU>
To: A16.A16(KIDSTV)
Date: 10/9/95 7:11pm
Subject: mail kidstv@fcc.gov

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

As a school library media specialist, I am deeply disturbed by what our children watch on television each evening. They are subjected to adult themes which they have no business watching. It would be easy to simply say that it is a parent problem, but too many young parents do not seem to be aware of what their children watch even before 9:00 pm.

I would ask you to spend time watching TV in the evenings, in the after- noons and even in the mornings. Ask yourself if you would want your children or grandchildren exposed to the constant barrage of unsuitable material.

Please consider dealing with children's programming in a responsible manner

Consider, through bill MM Docket No. 93-48, providing educational programming, and programming which is devoid of adult themes during hours when most children are up - before 9:00 pm. We will all benefit from regulations which respect the fact that children are not little adults.

Mary Lou Benton
Media Specialist
Caughman Road Elementary School
7725 Caughman Road
Columbia, SC 29209
Phone 803-783-5670 Fax 803-783 5537
Internet: MARYLOU@UNIVSCVM.CSD.SCAROLINA.EDU

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OCT 10 1995

From: Douglas Kubalek <dckub@orca.esd114.wednet.edu>
To: A16.A16(kidstv)
Date: 10/9/95 8:38pm
Subject: Children's TV Act comments

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

As President of the North Olympic League of the Washington State Athletic Association, and Principal of Crescent School, I am grateful to have this opportunity to comment on the Children's Television Act, particularly as it pretains to what appears to be a regressive attitude of decision-makers within the broadcasting industry...one which suggests that it is more important to put sexual misconduct, violence and vulgarity before the eyes of young people than to be a champion against doing so. It seems that we have allowed greed to be the determining factor in the selection of program material. "What will attract the sponsors money." or "What will capture the viewers attention so that the highest paying sponsors will want to spend their dollars at our station." WE WOULD NEVER MAKE THE CAR AVAILABLE TO A 10-YEAR OLD BECAUSE HE LIKES CARS AND IS ANXIOUS TO DRIVE A CAR. Interest in watching acts of sexual misconduct, violence, or vulgar sit-coms is likewise unjustifiable. Messages to school kids today on Television show mothers as stupid and impulsive, fathers as egomaniacs without common sence or intellegence, principals as foolish power-hungry bafoones, and teachers as dim-witted nerds who couldn't get jobs in the real world. Additionally the entire group have unquenchible sex desires that keep them from possessing any self-restraint, but capable of presenting enuendos of their secret exploits. "As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he" may be a trueism today. Television has the tremendous to put thoughts into our minds that are vivid to perfection. We have the capability of making murder so commonplace that it feels comfortable. We can set up false expectations in our young minds where they are nolonger to decide where reality can be found or who is to be trusted. What our children spend their time experienceing on TV they will try to fulfill in their own life because they will find their own life to dual and impotent.

I am asking that the FCC take a very aggressive stand to protect our children and families from the uncontrolled presence of inappropriate sexual conduct and vulgarity, plus the graphic violence favored by the television industry. Restore prudence and common sense to broadcast programming. Not only must you receive a firm commitment from the television industry to live up to the Children's Television Act, but should put themselves in a position to levy large fines for violation.
Thank you for your attention to this "life or death" situation.

CC: FCCMAIL.SMTP("Office@orca.esd114.wednet.edu")

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OCT 10 1995

From: Phillip W. Meyer <pmeyer@TSO.Cin.IX.net>
To: A16.A16(kidstv)
Date: 10/9/95 10:02pm
Subject: Children's TV Guidelines

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

I am a father of three children, ages 6,4 and 2. The only television we let them watch is either on PBS or videotape. But my wife and I read about multibillion (that's Billion, with a 'B') mergers of television networks and huge conglomerates, and these companies have nothing to spend on children's programs. Saturday morning cartoons are slick commercials for toys interspersed with commercials for McDonalds, in between the violence, the jokes about body noises, the stories about how it's OK to ignore (or put down) the people you should respect. And this is how these companies treat our country's children. The Children's Television Act is a farce. The TV critic here reported how some stations were listing 'The Jetsons' and 'The Flintstones' as their educational programs. And most of these "educational" shows were on between 5 and 7am.

If I remember my 20th century history, the commercial TV networks and stations were given their channels free of charge in order to encourage development of the infant industry, but with a caveat that the free license was in exchange for public service, or using the license for the public good.

If quality, safe, educational children's programming is not in all of our best interests, I don't know what is.

If the broadcasters making billions of dollars off their free use of the airwaves refuse to program in the public interest, charge them for the use of their channels. Give the proceeds to PBS stations. Tighten up the loopholes in the Children's Television Act. Give the stations who are programming for children (and not for advertisers) the revenue to continue. Define what is educational. Have local review boards monitor their local stations according to their own community standards. Just please do something. It is obvious the free market has abandoned our children in favor of young, impressionable consumers.

Thank you for the opportunity to have a say in an issue that is obviously dear to my heart. Being a parent is hard enough without companies with billions of dollars in resources trying to undue everything we have worked so hard to accomplish.

Phil and Elaine Meyer
2072 Endovalley Drive
Cincinnati, OH 45244
(513) 474-3430 uxe-mail: pmeyer@tso.cin.ix.net

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From: <BFIEHN@aol.com>
To: A16.A16(kidstv)
Date: 10/10/95 7:51am
Subject: MM Docket No. 93-48

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

Children's television is of great interest to me as both a parent and as an educator. I have been exceedingly discouraged about the quality of children's programming on commercial TV.

There is enough evidence to show that tv does influence children. Programs such as After School Specials (ABC,NBC) Newton's apple, Reading Rainbow have managed to combine education and entertainment into meaningful programming for children. Unfortunately these are exceptions in Childrens programming rather than the rule.

Before funding for children's programming is given to commercial broadcasters, clear expectations should be given. Provide our children with the building blocks that are so needed in preparation for a useful adult life. Provide programs that are long enough, frequent enough, and of high quality. Minimize violence and sexual overtones. Provide good literature, history, science, math, career awareness, fine arts, in formats that will draw children.

Sincerely,

Barbara Fiehn
5619 Longboat Rd. NW
Rochester, MN 55901 bfieln@aol.com bfieln@esc.rochester.k12.mn.us

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MM 93-48

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From: carolyn Masek <I991042%UNIVSCVM.BITNET@VTBIT.CC.VT.EDU>
To: whom it may concern <KIDSTV@FCC.GOV>
Date: 10/10/95 9:25am
Subject: MM Docket 93-48

OCT 10 1995

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

I am the mother of a 3 year old girl and a 9 week old boy. I am also a high school library media specialist. I am concerned about the lack of quality children's programming on television. In my home my daughter is limited to watching PBS and video tapes of programs like Barney and Sesame Street. I can not allow her to watch most commercial tv because I feel the content of most programming is inappropriate for my daughter. Even those programs that pretend to be for children, specifically cartoons, contain violence and other elements that I do not want her exposed to. We do not subscribe to cable, but even if we did, I'm not sure I'd let her watch. I don't think the programs are any better. My husband and I enjoy watching programs on commercial tv, especially some of the more popular sitcoms, however, we never turn the tv on before my daughter's bedtime, 9:00 pm, because the content of the programs is too adult-themed. During the school day, I frequently hear my students talking about the programs they watch on television. Frequently, they have watched programs that are specifically targeted to an adult audience. High school students ARE NOT adults and should not be exposed to mature comedy and drama. I used to be the person who said parents and other concerned individuals should just use the "off" switch on the tv and solve the problem of poor programming for children. If you don't like it, don't watch it, and I practice that in my home. However, too many adults do not turn off inappropriate programming and I see the results of that everyday at my school. Many children's behavior reflects the lack of parental supervision when selecting television programs. Someone must start caring about what our kids watch and if the parents won't do it, then the FCC must. I urge you to require more quality programming for children and then enforce the rules!!

Carolyn Masek
Library Media Specialist
Columbia High School
Columbia, SC 29210
Phone: (803) 731-8920
Internet: I991042@univscvm.csd.sc.carolina.edu
Read and Live!!

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MM93-48

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OCT 10 1995

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

From: Linda J. Hendrickson <lhendric@potlatch.esd112.wednet.edu>
To: Federal Communications Commission <kidstv@fcc.gov>
Date: 10/10/95 11:10am
Subject: Children's Television Act

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Dear Ladies and Gentlemen:

As a parent I urge you to work with the television industry to create and enforce higher standards for the behaviors, language and values exhibited daily in television programming.

I am not suggesting that we shelter our children from what many refer to as "the real world." However, I do believe that we all learn by example. When the consistent examples our children see day after day and night after night demonstrate violent resolution of conflict, indiscriminate sexual liaisons without consequences, and inappropriate if not plain vulgar language, what do we expect them to learn?

Also, as a member of the Board of Education of the Federal Way School District in Federal Way, Washington, I want you to consider the role television plays in educating our children. It has been stated repeatedly that a vital function of public schools is to serve as a meeting place where people from all walks of life and all social backgrounds can come together to learn and grow through a common intellectual and cultural experience. I believe that the television industry would do well to hold itself up to fulfilling this same function. Its pervasive presence in homes throughout our country provides nearly limitless opportunities for teaching basic values like honesty and integrity, as well as the attitudes and behaviors necessary for success like perseverance, responsibility, empathy, and teamwork.

Please do what you can to require the television industry to be responsible citizens who contribute to the education, growth, and development of our nation's children. It bears repeating--our children are our future!

Sincerely,

Linda J. Hendrickson
29114 8th Avenue S.
Federal Way, WA 98003

cc: Board of Education, Federal Way School District
Thomas Vander Ark, Superintendent, FWSD

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From: Thomas Miller <tmiller@TSO.Cin.IX.net>
To: A16.A16(kidstv)
Date: 10/10/95 3:23pm
Subject: Children's TV

OCT 10 1995

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

I agree with the idea that there should be a set minimum number of hours for quality children's educational programming.

It is difficult to dictate/define what constitutes educational programming.

(some would say that power rangers are educational).

I believe the content should have literary merit and should be challenging to the audience rather than sinking to the lowest possible common denominator.

Programs such as Barney, Mr. Rogers, Sesame Street, Big Comfy Couch, Where in the World is Carmen San Diego and Mathnet are exaamples that I would cite as models of excellent educational and entertaining children's programming.

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OCT 10 1995

From: <jfriedm1@ic3.ithaca.edu>
To: A16.A16(kidstv)
Date: 10/10/95 4:50pm

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

Secretary:FCC

Critics today are worried that violence and sex on television is warping the sence of reality of today's youth. That it is distorting and changing the morals or our young ones. This may yet be correct, or it may not.

According to the U.S. News World Report, the amount of violence on television has been decreasing over the past two years. It also states that the amount of sex on the boob is increasing.

In a study by Monique Ward, a postdoctoral fellow in education at UCLA, she states that among the most popular shows for ages 12 to 17(1992-93), on the average 29% of all interactions involved sex talk of some kind. Is this good or bad? Many shows like "Beverly Hills 90210" have acts of sex or violence in them, but at most times they happen for a purpose, to teach a lesson. That lesson is not go out and have sex, it is normally about safe sex or what one should do if raped. It deals with these issues in a respectful and morally correct way.

I there is a problem with biolence and sex on television, the major problems are the afternoon talkshows. These programs show children that are sexually active at ten and eleven years old; Children that have sex with their sibling's partner. Watching programs like these are where kids get their ideas from. Kids can not relate with a cartoon character, but a child at home watching "Geraldo" can certainly relate to the young teenager conversing on the talk show. She started having sex at twelve and she gets on TV for it. Therefor, it must be ok. The problem lies in the afternoon television, not prime time. At night, most parents are home and watch "NYPD Blue, 90210 and Melrose Place" with their kids. It is at 3 or 4PM that the parents are not there to regulate or to watch the programs with their children and that is the time that the talk shows thrive. It seems that a solution wouold be to move talk shows to a later time or perhaps have a warning that the show may contain material unsuitable for children.

Networks are listening to the cries of parents all around the country, demanding less violence and less sex. The Mtv cartoon "Beavis and Butthead" was moved to a later time because parents complained about the unnecessary violence and obscenities.

There are also plenty of nice, wholesome shows for children to watch, and most of them are in the top ten every week. There is "Seinfeld" and "Friends" on Thursdays with reruns of "Seinfeld" running every night. Contrary to popular belief, the show "Roseanne" is a very family oriented show with good writing as well as morals. Shows such as "ER" and "Chicago Hope"(two personal favorites) have great acting, and the plot surrounds doctors saving peoples lives, what is more moral than that. Great new cartoons are on every weekday afternoons as well as on weekends. "Animaniacs," "The X-Men," "Loony Toons," "The Adventures of Batman and Robin," and "Gargoyles" are great examples.

Warner Brothers new WB network is trying to fill the 8 to 9PM slot with family friendly programs. For example the upcoming cartoon series called "Steven Speilberg Presents Pinky and the Brain"(this show is a regular 10-12 minute skit in the "Animaniacs" cartoon). A very funny show about two lab mice(one smart and one dumb) whose objective is to take over the world.

Those who still are not swayed can take heart in a neat little device called the V-Chip. Both houses of Congress have supported the legislation requiring all new TV sets be equipped with a chip enabling parents to block violent programs. It is very simple to impliment this device. The problem is deciding which shows should have a V for violence. Is violence in "M*A*S*H" the same as violence in "NYPD Blue" or "Melrose Place"? None the less, the V-Chip is still a few years away, and for now the networks don't want to cooperate. Until the chip is implemented, it is up to the parents to regulate what their children watch, as it should be.

Jason Friedman
jfried1@ic3.ithaca.edu

CC: FCCMAIL.SMTP("massmedia@liber.ithaca.edu")

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MM93-48

RECEIVED

From: Dr. Linda H. Alexander, ETSU <lalexand@tenet.edu>
To: A16.A16(kidstv)
Date: 10/9/95 2:42pm
Subject: Children*s Television-MM Docket #93-48

OCT 10 1995

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

Dear Mr/Ms. Secretary of the Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

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I understand that the FCC has called for comments in regards to children*s television in the U.S. This email is in regards to: MM Docket #93-48.

My name is Linda H. Alexander. I am an assistant professor at East Texas State University in Elementary Education. My doctorate is from the University of North Texas with a minor in technology for K-12 education. My Master*s degree is from the University of Hawaii in Educational Communications and Technology with a specialization in television and film. My dissertation was a study of Internet listservs as follow-up to satellite teleconferences for faculty development. I have been an instructional design consultant for Dallas County Community College District helping professors prepare their classes for interactive television.

I have been a K-12 classroom teacher both in the U.S. and abroad, mostly in English as a Second Language classrooms. I am a parent of two young men. I have lived abroad for 11 years of my adult life in Japan, Canada and England. Therefore, I have seen children*s television in other countries, while our children were growing up. I am a certified Librarian/Media Specialist who has worked as an elementary school librarian. I now am a professor teaching graduate and under graduate students who are either teachers or are preparing to become teachers. I teach courses in reading, language arts and technology (computers) at the Mesquite Center for Professional Development and Technology in field-based program (cooperation between the East Texas State University, the Mesquite Independent School District and the Texas Center for Educational Technology located at the University of North Texas).

I believe, that there were no teeth in the Children's Television Act enacted in 1990. Broadcasters are not required to meet any standards for quality or quantity of children's programming. I understand that the Federal Communications Commission is now calling for public comment on the quality of educational programming for children.

The history of children's educational programming in the U.S. shows that broadcasters will not voluntarily meet children's educational programming needs. In thirty-five years, increases in educational programming have come after massive pressure from the public and organizations who monitor children*s programming.

* Please consider the following:

-The Processing Guideline should consist of one hour of "core" educational programming daily per broadcaster.

--Quality "core" programs should be:

- * specifically designed to educate and inform children
- * at least thirty minutes in length per program
- * regularly scheduled
- * aired between 7am and 9pm
 - * producible outside of the U.S. if deemed appropriate (e.g particularly, Great Britain, Canada and Australia who produce quality children*s programming).
 - * designed to promote good children*s literature, science and math, the arts, good citizenship, cooperation and high moral standards that emphasize responsibility and accountability.
 - * low levels of violence
 - * high production quality.
 - * gender and ethnic sensitive

Congress is poised to give broadcasters \$37 billion worth of free access to the airwaves. If the FCC and Congress are giving away this lucrative spectrum space, I think that our nation*s children deserve high quality children's programming in return. This is only a minimal acknowledgment of broadcasters' responsibilities to serve the "public interest".

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Sincerely,

Linda H. Alexander

Dr. Linda H. Alexander

Assistant Professor in Elementary Education East Texas State University in the Mesquite Center for Professional Development & Technology

Email: lalexand@tenet.edu, Tel. 214-618-3487 (H).