



April 18, 2015

FCC, Office of the Secretary
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

RE: E-rate Letter of Appeal

Reference: WC Docket No. 13-184

To whomever it may concern:

The Missoula County Public School District is appealing a denial by the Universal Services Administrative Company (USAC) for the 2012-13 funding year. In relation to this appeal, the following contact information is provided, for questions please contact:

Dan Parrish, Accounting Supervisor
Missoula County Public Schools
406.728.2400 ext 3031
406.549.0449 (fax)
dparrish@mcps.k12.mt.us

This appeal pertains to the Administrators Decision on Appeal – Funding Year 2012-13 letter from the USAC. Additional reference information is as follows:

FRN: 2360181
Billed Entity: Missoula County Public Schools
Form 471 #: 847849
BEN: 135105
FCC Registration #: 0001628148

In the above referenced letter, the USAC stated, “the applicant received duplicate services.” However, this simply was not the case. This District had decided in its RFP process to receive internet services from two providers as a security measure to ensure that we would always have at least some level of internet services available to our

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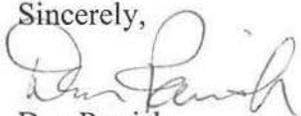
students and staff if we were to lose services with the other provider. The amount of internet bandwidth that we purchased was the full amount we had intended to have and for a District of 10,000 staff and students, the total of 110 Mbps bandwidth was not excessive by any stretch. The District IT staff had spent much time with the internet service providers attempting to balance out the bandwidth usage so the each service would be used throughout. Additionally, we had purchased equipment for that very purpose as balancing out the service was more challenging than originally contemplated. The District purchased the Sonic Wall NSA 5600 device. This device has a built-in load balancing feature designed specifically for environments with two or more providers. This device was not set up until the current school year. However, much effort was made to utilize both providers & to help maximize our internet resources. As seems to be the norm with most school districts, we are a school with limited resources and we would not have afforded the luxury of having a back-up ISP. Our full intent was to fully utilize all of the internet bandwidth that we were purchasing.

In our Request for Proposals for internet services, we used the term “redundant”, though I am not sure why. I have included a copy of this District’s RFP for these services. In the RFP, page 3 of the attached document, it clearly states in the specifications that the District required 40 Mbps of internet access. The 40mbps was for the 2011-12 year, where we ended up receiving a 10mbps service from one provider and a 30mbps service from a second. In the 2012-13 year, we received internet services totaling 110mbps. The contracts that began in 2011-12 were three year agreements which allowed for increasing the bandwidth in years 2 (2012-13) and in year 3.

I have included a copy of the Notification of Commitment Adjustment Letter

Thank you for your consideration of this appeal. If you have questions please contact me as noted above.

Sincerely,



Dan Parrish
Accounting Supervisor

Enclosures