



# Harambee Institute of Science and Technology

## Charter School

638-640 N. 66<sup>th</sup> Street \* Philadelphia, PA 19151

(215) 472-8770 \* (215) 472-9611 (Fax)

www.histcs.org

Donald A. Redmond, Business Manager  
Harambee Institute of Science and Technology Charter School  
636-640 N 66<sup>th</sup> Street,  
Philadelphia, PA 19151  
(215) 472-8770 ext. 304

June 23, 2015

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Ms. Dortch,

**Re:** WC DOCKET NO. 02-6  
**Applicant:** Harambee Charter School  
**BEN:** 228148  
**Form 471 number:** 874945  
**SPIN:** 143023669  
**FRN#** 2388622  
**Appeal Letter:** "Administrator's Decision on Appeal – Funding Year 2012-2013"  
**Decision we are appealing:** "Partially Approved, Funding Denied"

I am writing to appeal USAC's decision on the abovementioned FRN to reverse the approval of the funding at 90% discount level that we have appealed to FCC back in September 2013, back to 80% despite all documentation proving school discount at 90%. (Please see enclosed for a copy of the "Administrator's Decision on Appeal – Funding Year 2012-2013" letter dated May 26, 2015 that we are appealing on and the letter of approval from FCC dated June 25, 2014)

We understand that in our Form 471 application, the discount level submitted was for 80%. However, we believe that USAC has a rule that allows schools to amend their applications or correct any ministerial and clerical errors during the PIA review process until an FCDL is issued. On January 16, 2013, we received a set of review questions from PIA reviewer, Mr. Louis S. Batoff. Item II of the letter is regarding "Discount Validation" for our school. We responded to this review and submitted documentations that proves our school's discount level to be at 90%. I have enclosed the supporting documentations in this letter for your perusal. (A copy of the survey certification and a copy of a filled up survey form by a student)

Mr. Louis Batoff reviewed our documents and made an error in his calculation and had approved our application at 60% discount instead. We then submitted an appeal regarding this FCDL issued to USAC. As we were able to prove our discount level at 90% with the documentations, the USAC appeal was successful and the discount level for the application was reverted back to 90%.

However, in July 2013, we were very disappointed and puzzled to be receiving the "Administrator's Decision on Appeal – Funding Year 2012-2013" letter (dated July 17, 2013) reverting the discount level back to 80% citing the reason that the FRN should be approved for funding at the originally submitted

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discount level of 80%. Therefore, we submitted a second appeal to FCC in September 2013. This appeal was approved by FCC on June 25, 2014.

However, once again this approval by FCC has now been reverted by USAC back to 80% (letter dated May 26, 2015). Our school finds the constant changing of school's discount status by USAC to be very disappointing as so much effort has been put in to submit valid documentations to both USAC and FCC to prove the discount status. In addition, FCC has already reviewed this case once and has approved the school's appeal.

Throughout the entire review and appeal process, we have followed the program rules thoroughly and closely. According to USAC's program rules, our school had submitted documentations during the PIA review process to prove our discount level at 90% and this was before FCDL was issued.

Therefore, I strongly urged for FCC to review in full the process we have undergone and kindly approve this appeal. Since the funding was approved and money has already been disbursed to the vendor last year, if this appeal is not approved, it would signify a huge burden on the school to have to pay \$28,350.00 back to the program and this is definitely not to the benefits of our students. Erate funding is crucial to our school and most definitely for our students.

Please feel free to contact me via phone at 215-472-8770, or via email [dredmond@histcs.org](mailto:dredmond@histcs.org), should more information be required from us in order to help you with your assessment of our appeal.

I appreciate the time you have taken to read my letter and I look forward to hear from you soon.

Thank you very much.

Respectfully,

Donald A. Redmond,  
Business Manager  
Harambee Institute of Science and Technology Charter School

Enclosed:

- A copy of Letter "Administrator's Decision on Appeal – Funding Year 2012-2013" that we are appealing on dated May 26, 2015
- A copy of FCC Memo dated June 25, 2014 regarding approval of our appeal request
- A copy of our Income Survey Certification Letter
- A copy of a filled up income survey form
- A copy of the set of review questions received on January 16, 2013 for 471 Application 874945

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