



High Rocks


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In the matter of Request for Review by High Rocks Educational Corporation
of Decision of Universal Service Administrator

April 7, 2016

Wireline Competition Bureau
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

RE: CC Docket No. 02-6
Form 471 Application Number: 1038927
Funding Request Number: 2849747
BENS: High Rocks Educational Corporation 16082069,
The Hub 16082119,
Steele Studio 16082122
SPIN: 143001432
FCC Registration Number: 0024493694

High Rocks Educational Corporation, 16082069, submits this letter to appeal the Commitment Adjustment Decision indicated in the Notification of Commitment Adjustment Letter dated 10/30/15 to the FCC. Please contact Karline Jensen, High Rocks Business Manager, at the following address to discuss this appeal:

195 Thompson Rd.
Hillsboro, WV 24946
Phone: 304 653-4891
Fax: 304 653-4860
karline@highrocks.org

Following is the text from the Notification of Commitment Adjustment Letter (attached) that is the subject of this appeal:

"Our routine review of Schools and Libraries Program (Program) funding commitments has revealed certain applications where funds were committed in violation of Program rules. In order to be sure that no funds are used in violation of Program rules, the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) must now adjust your overall funding commitment. The purpose of this letter is to make the required adjustments to your funding commitment, and to



give you an opportunity to appeal this decision. USAC has determined the applicant is responsible for all or some of the violations. Therefore, the applicant is responsible to repay all or some of the funds disbursed in error (if any).”

And from the Funding Commitment Adjustment Report (attached) for Form 471 Application Number 1038927:

“After multiple requests for documentation and application review, it has been determined that this funding commitment must be rescinded in full. Services were installed or delivered to ineligible entities: High Rocks Educational Corporation BEN 16082069, The Hub BEN 16082119 and Steele Studio BEN 16082122. These entities are ineligible to receive E-rate discounts. FCC rules require that discounts are to be provided only to entities eligible to receive funding. Entities: High Rocks Educational Corporation, The Hub and Steele Studio are after school programs and summer camps. Services requested were Internet Access. Since funding was provided to an ineligible entity, the program rules have been violated. Accordingly, the commitment has been rescinded in full and USAC will seek recovery of any improperly disbursed funds from the applicant.”

The Notification of Commitment Adjustment Letter states that funding was rescinded as a result of a routine review which called into question the eligibility of the billed entities High Rocks Educational Corporation, The Hub, and Steele Studio.

The purpose of this appeal is to verify the eligibility of these entities so that the funding may be reinstated.

High Rocks Educational Corporation, The Hub, and Steele Studio meet the definition of a secondary school found in (20 U.S.C. Section 7801 (38):

“The term “secondary school” means a nonprofit institutional day or residential school, including a public secondary charter school, that provides secondary education, as determined under State law, except that the term does not include any education beyond grade 12.”

High Rocks Educational Corporation, The Hub, and Steele Studio work in partnership with the public school systems, **providing secondary education as a part time school** to students whose home school is a public school. These educational services assist the public school system in meeting the goals for student achievement outlined in WV state law.

Each entity provides secondary education according to an agreement with the Board of Education in their school district (copies of agreements attached).

In addition, the entities provide free meals to students as part of the West Virginia Department of Education Summer Food and Child and Adult Food Service Programs. Attached please find copies of Summer Food Service Program Claim Reimbursement Statements. **These meals, served at High Rocks Educational Corporation facilities and The Hub, are a vital part of**

ensuring students' success in their secondary education, as outlined in WV State Law (full article attached):

“(d) The Legislature intends for the state and county boards of education to enter into public-private partnerships to eventually provide free nutritious meals for all pre-kindergarten through twelfth grade school children in West Virginia.”

“Expenditures may also be made for initiatives developed with the Department of Health and Human Resources and public- private partnerships to provide outreach and nutritional meals when students are not in school.”

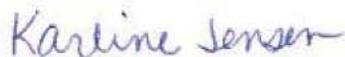
“(g) The Department of Education and county boards of education shall form or expand existing partnerships with the federal and state departments of agriculture, Department of Health and Human Resources, local master gardeners, county extension agents or other experts in the field of agriculture or gardening to develop community gardens, farm-to-school programs and other such programs that teach students how to grow and produce healthy food and provide healthy food to the students.”

Also attached please find **letters from the WV Office of Child Nutrition verifying the student enrollment and free and reduced** numbers for each school within the School Districts these entities serve.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter. High Rocks Educational Corporation, The Hub, and Steele Studio are award-winning educators of students in a rural area that does not have access to the high speed internet that most Americans can now take for granted. E-rate funding would increase the capacity of these entities to educate rural young citizens and prepare them to be leaders in a 21st century world. We are ready to offer top-notch STEAM coursework to these promising young students, but cannot give our classrooms access to the internet without the high speeds available through E-rate funding. In addition, the remoteness and low population density of our locality makes it difficult for students to travel to our classrooms. High speed internet would allow them to participate in classes from multiple locations connecting our geographically isolated communities.

Without E-rate funding, High Rocks will only have access to **1 Mbps or less (~0.77)**. With the funding, speeds of 20-30 Mbps are possible. What is your speed at home in D.C.?

Sincerely,



Karline Jensen
Business Manager
304 653-4891
karline@highrocks.org

