

April 8, 2016

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

*RE: Request For Extension of Time to File E-rate Form 471 Applications. CC Docket No. 02-6.*

Dear Ms. Dortch:

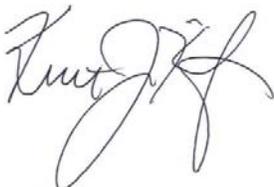
On April 7 the Wisconsin Department of Administration (DOA) filed a letter with the Commission requesting that an extension be granted—beyond the current April 29 deadline—to the Department to file its large E-rate consortium application. This application, filed by a DOA program called TEACH (Technology for Educational ACHievement), includes over 800 schools and libraries getting broadband connectivity via our state's BadgerNet network. The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction strongly supports this DOA request.

In its letter the Department of Administration articulated the reasons for a filing extension and we will not reiterate them here. However, we do want to stress that the \$12 million in E-rate funding received by the TEACH consortium is absolutely essential in helping our schools and libraries meet the broadband goals established by the FCC in its 2014 E-rate modernization orders. As part of achieving these goals our department is working closely with DOA to increase bandwidth for schools and libraries now on BadgerNet and to connect additional schools and libraries currently not on the network. There is no way this will happen without the TEACH E-rate funding.

While this letter focuses on our state's TEACH consortium application, we are fully aware that many other applicants—especially consortia and libraries—are having technical issues preventing them from filing their 471 application forms for the upcoming E-rate year. Considering this, we request that the Commission extend the filing window for all applicants, and to ensure that no applicant is denied funding because of filing issues over which they have little or no control.

Thank you for listening to our concerns.

Sincerely:



Kurt J. Kiefer, Assistant State Superintendent  
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CC: Mr. Chris Henderson, Chief Executive Officer, Universal Service Administrative Company  
Mr. Mel Blackwell, Vice President, USAC Schools and Libraries Division