

Before the Federal Communications Commission Washington DC 20554

In the matter
Request for Waiver
of FCC Form 471 Filing Deadline

River Charter Schools BEN 16081972
and its BEN entities
16066883, 16084013, 16084014

For Form 471 Numbers
161058426 & 161058420

Schools and Libraries Universal Service CC Docket No. 02-6 Support Mechanism

Petition for Waiver of FCC Form 471 Filing Deadline for Funding Year 2016
CC Docket No. 02-6

RE: FCC Form 471#: 161058426 BEN: 16081972

RE: FCC Form 471# 161058420 BEN: 16081972

In accordance with Sections 54.719 through 54.721 of the Commission's Rules, River Charter Schools is seeking waiver of the 471 filing window for funding year 2016.

River Charter Schools is a small Charter Management Organization with two schools, Delta Elementary Charter (rural) and Lighthouse Charter School. Both schools share a single IT administrator.

There are several reasons why the deadline was not met.

1. The deadline fell right after our annual student testing window. The rural school Delta Elementary had difficulty with its Smarter Balanced student testing because of rural internet issues. Focus during the testing period remains on the students we serve. The schools share a single IT administrator and focus during the testing period was to fix internet connection issues and in the "downtime" attempt to file Form 472 for Funding Year 2015 (see next item). May 31st –shortly after the deadline and our student testing window, IT contacted USAC to begin filing Form 471 (see #3 below).
2. The new USAC portal was difficult to understand and it took weeks to file Form 472 for funding year 2015. Funding year 2015 was the first time River Charter Schools had applied for USAC's E-rate. When it was time to close the year with Form 472, the USAC website had changed which, despite being innovative, was unfamiliar. River Charter Schools IT had to work closely with USAC to file Form 472 as the portal was not intuitive and River Charter Schools was not prepared for the considerable changes. The process for filing (2) Form 472's took approximately 4 weeks.
3. The new USAC portal did not have the school district's entity information correct, therefore filing (2) Form 471's took almost two weeks (Filing date 6/13). Again, IT had to work closely with USAC in getting our BEN's correct in the new USAC portal. River Charter Schools was repeatedly explaining the information over the phone and via the portal to USAC regarding how our entity is set up and answering questions that should have not been readdressed.

The 471 forms under appeal were filed within 2 weeks of the deadline. Therefore, due to issues beyond our control noted above, River Charter Schools is asking for a waiver of the May 26, 2016 deadline for the following submissions:

FCC Form 471#: 161058426 BEN: 16081972 LCS Broadband

FCC Form 471# 161058420 BEN: 16081972 DECS Bandwidth

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River Charter Schools