



Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

AUG 2 2000

CC: 96-45

The Honorable Maurice D. Hinchey
U. S. House of Representatives
2431 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Dear Congressman Hinchey:

Thank you for your letter regarding the application for universal service funding of the New Paltz Central School District in New Paltz, New York. The purpose of the schools and libraries support mechanism is to provide discounted telecommunications services, Internet access, and internal connections to eligible schools and libraries, pursuant to the Communications Act of 1934, as amended.

Commission rules required schools and libraries to submit their applications for the first funding year within a filing window, which ran from January 30, 1998 to April 15, 1998. In order to meet this deadline, the Schools and Libraries Division of the Universal Service Administrative Company (SLD) must have received the applicant's Form 471 by April 15, 1998. SLD received the application for funding from New Paltz Central after this filing window closed and, consistent with program rules, directed New Paltz Central to seek waiver of the application window deadline with the Commission. On February 29, 2000, New Paltz Central filed a request with the Commission seeking such a waiver. Although I am unable to comment on the merits of this request while it remains under review, I will ensure that your letter is placed on the record for consideration in this proceeding. We anticipate resolution of this matter in the near future. A copy of the decision will be sent to New Paltz Central once a decision has been reached.

Thank you for your continued interest in issues relating to the schools and libraries support mechanism. If you have additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Katherine L. Schroder
Deputy Chief, Accounting Policy Division
Common Carrier Bureau

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