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EDGEWOOD

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

San Antonio

Dr. Noe Saucedo
Superintendent of Schools

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May 8, 2001

Magalie Roman Salas
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Subject: Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Ms Salas:

Edgewood Independent School District, San Antonio, Texas 78237 would like our comments to be considered during the proposal adoption process.

The Schools and Libraries Universal Service support mechanism was established as part of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 with the express purpose of providing affordable access to telecommunications services for all eligible schools and libraries, particularly those in rural and economically disadvantaged areas. Edgewood ISD is in one of those economically disadvantaged areas qualifying for a 90% discount rate. We received funding during the Funding Year 3 and have applied for funds for Year 4. We would like to continue adding to our original architecture to complete our work by using funds in Year 4 for Internal Connections.

We strongly urge the FCC not to completely cut off funding for interconnections for districts such as ours who received Year 3 interconnections funding. Please apply a rule of economy to allow for the funding of some small interconnection work and for maintenance of this and previous work. Without this funding, much of the previous installation work will be at risk because of our collective understanding that there would be cuts, but that some funding would be available for interconnections. Now we will have our enterprise system incomplete and without interconnection maintenance.

We ask you to weigh our comments with the rationale that we are doing good work with the E-Rate program; building a strong infrastructure foundation, upgrading our district technologies to incorporate educational delivery across the enterprise, and growing an instructional technology cadre of teachers to fully use our system for distributed learning, distance learning, and student oriented learning via the Internet. Our technology plans and goals are fully intertwined with our learning plans and goals, as spelled out in our Five Year Technology Plan and TEKS, Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills. Our students and teachers are finally using the fruits of the E-Rate program. Please allow us to continue with this essentially needed part of our program.

Thank you for your consideration and for accepting our comments.

Yours truly,

Noe Saucedo

Noe Saucedo, Ph. D.
Superintendent of Schools

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