

**From:** Birdie Gandy <birdiegandy@yahoo.com>  
**To:** <CCBSecretary@fcc.gov>  
**Date:** Tue, Apr 30, 2002 9:45 AM  
**Subject:** Request for Waiver of Filing Deadline

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Birdie Gandy, CPA  
Treasurer  
Lincoln County Board of Education  
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96-45

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**CC:** <birdiegandy@yahoo.com>

Date: April 26, 2002

To: School and Library Universal Fund

From: Birdie Gandy, Treasurer

Re: Request for Waiver of Filing Deadline – Application Form Identifier: 2000  
CC Docket Nos. 96-45 and 97-21

I Birdie Gandy, Treasurer of the Lincoln County Board of Education respectfully request a waiver of the filing deadline for funding year 2000/2001.

Due to the many responsibilities at this time of the year I did not get our application mailed out until January 19, 2000. It is my sole responsibility to gather the information and complete the application, which is a very time consuming process. In addition to this responsibility during this time frame, I am also responsible for preparing W2's, 1099's, setting up a new calendar year for payroll, doing quarterly tax returns, and closing books for the end of the year. Due to all these responsibilities I was putting in 16-hour days during this time period. I simply forgot about doing the E Rate application until the last minute and was unable to get it in the mail in order for it to arrive at SLD by January 19, 2000 at 11:59 p.m., although I did get it in the mail on January 19, 2000.

Due to the fact that I was unable to perform all of my responsibilities during this time frame, I petitioned our board to hire a technology person who would be responsible for completing the E Rate Application. In addition this person would be responsible for updating and coordinating all technology in our schools. This position was to be funded with our E Rate funds.

Our board did in fact realize that I could not complete all of the duties and meet all the deadlines within the short time frame and realized that my efforts should be focused on complying with all of the IRS regulations, financial statements, and payroll.

Our board did hire the technology person and I helped her do the E Rate application for year 2001/2002 and the application was mailed within the timelines.

I also helped her fill out the FCC Form 472 Billed Entity Applicant Reimbursement Form and mail to the vendors. It was during this process that we were notified by one of

vendors that we did not receive funding for year 00/01. This was the first time I was made aware that we did not receive funding for our 2000 Application.

The only contact that I have had with the SLD is a postcard that I received on March 7, 2000, notifying me that they had received our 2000 Application and it was received after the filing window closed. I was not instructed to take further action, to contact anyone, to ask for a wavier, absolutely nothing. I have yet to be notified that we were not getting funding for the 2000 application. As I stated before, I became aware of this from one of vendors while filing for a reimbursement.

We now have a technology person employed who is to be funded using the 2000 E rate funds and I do not have the funds to pay for this position. This position is very valuable to our students in helping keep our small rural county up to date and competitive with the larger more wealthy county students and is vital to their education.

Should this waiver be denied our school system will lose \$58,754.00, which means that I will have to funds from our instructional budget to cover the salary of our technology person.