



Mount Ayr Community School District

Home of the Raiders and Raiderettes

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

RE: CC Docket No. 02-6
Waiver Request based on USAC letter dated April 8, 2005,
Funding Year 2005 Form 471 Postmarked Outside of Window

Dear FCC Waiver Committee,

This is a letter to request a waiver to accept our Form 471 for filing and not hold our application "pending final review of those applications that were filed within the filing window" (Form 471 Application # 487717, Form Identifier: 05-06_471A, Billed Entity # 132239). As a school district teaching Character Counts, we believe that honesty is the best policy. In light of that, we have no elaborate reasoning or story as to why we missed the deadline. We fully realize that it is the sole responsibility of this school district to file within the guidelines set forth by the FCC. The fact of the matter is that we simply made a mistake and the deadline passed before we realized. However, in looking at past cases that you have denied, we hope to appeal on the basis of "...special circumstances [that] ...would better serve the public interest than strict adherence to the rule."

This is a district that makes the best of the money we have to implement programs such as Character Counts, Raider Reader, and SuccessMaker – all with the same goal – to improve student achievement. Mount Ayr CSD is a rural district of less than 1000 students. As of our last report, we had 39% of our students qualifying for free or reduced lunches. It's not hard to see that our students already do without many of the luxuries that other larger districts afford. Denying our district e-rate funding for telecommunications and Internet access has potential to negatively impact our student achievement. We have relied on e-rate funding for many years to help cover costs the district incurs – not one other year have we filed late. No e-rate funding means the money to cover costs for telecommunications and Internet will have to come from our general fund – effectively taking money that will be used to further student achievement. Funding Mt. Ayr CSD will indeed serve public interest in a manner that is more important than strict adherence to the rule.

In closing, I would like to thank you for your time and consideration. As President Theodore Roosevelt once said, "The only man who makes no mistake is the man who does nothing." Mt. Ayr Community School district has indeed made a mistake, but we also do a lot for our students. I sincerely hope that you will make an exception and I implore you to do something to help us continue our goals for the betterment of student education.

Thank you,

Ray Coffey
Technology Director