



Greenfield Public Schools
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Joseph Ruscio, III
Superintendent of Schools

July 21, 2005

Letter of Appeal
Schools and Libraries Division
Box 125 - Correspondence Unit
80 South Jefferson Rd.
Whippany, NJ 07981
888-203-8100 (voice), 973.599.6542 (fax)

Sent via email

Re: Letter of Appeal, Form 471
1) Application Number 431911, Funding Request Number 1200562
2) Application Number 431129, Funding Request Number 1199414

Funding Year 2004
Greenfield Public Schools District
Billed Entity #: 120147

Contact for GPS: Carol S. Holzberg, PhD, District Technology Coordinator
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email: carolh@anthro.umass.edu (preferred method of contact)

To Whom It May Concern

I am writing this letter to appeal the USAC (Universal Service Administrative Company) Schools & Libraries Division *Funding Commitment Decision Letters of December 3, 2004* for the above referenced Form 471 applications.

Those FDCL letters state:

Funding Commitment Decision: \$0.00 - Insufficient documentation
Funding Commitment Decision Explanation: Applicant has not provided sufficient documentation to determine the eligibility of this item.

Extenuating circumstances prevented the Greenfield Public Schools District from submitting both timely documentation and a timely appeal of these decisions by February 3, 2005. Scott Carbee, the District Technology Coordinator who applied for E-rate funding on behalf of our District was hurriedly called up for U.S. military active duty during the *Appeal of 471 Apps 431911 & 431129, Greenfield Public Schools District, BEN 120147, Page 1 of 2*

application process. He had to leave our District for service before he could complete the necessary appeal. In answering his country's call to duty, he had no time to make his temporary replacement aware of pending problems.

Greenfield Public Schools District consists of seven schools in a small working class town in Western Massachusetts. Five of its seven schools receive reimbursement at the 80% rate; two receive reimbursement at the 70% rate. Our District is poor, with a high percentage of families getting some form of public assistance. Students would benefit greatly from the resources that E-rate reimbursement provides. These children have very limited access to computers in their homes. Yet they require computer skills for economic success in the workplace.

The District relies on E-rate reimbursements to pay for Internet access and telecommunication costs. Students use the Internet to complete school assignments, conduct research, and supplement classroom instruction. If we must pull funding for Internet access from other areas of the budget, it seriously impacts our ability to pay for items like books, teachers, and support personnel.

I have just been hired as the District's new technology coordinator. I am well aware of SLD deadlines, form submission requirements, and the importance of providing extensive and timely documentation to back up all E-rate funding requests. As soon as I arrived in early July, I inquired about E-rate reimbursements for 2004-05. I quickly discovered the disturbing "Not Funded" status news. I immediately submitted the necessary paperwork to obtain copies of the relevant FDCL decision letters.

Yesterday July 20, 2005 Aaron Stamper (ASTAMPE@sl.universalservice.org), a USAC representative emailed me copies of the Funding Year 7 FCDL letters that I had requested via email on July 18, 2005.

In light of the fact that Scott Carbee was called to active duty in service to our country, please reconsider our application for 2004. If you tell me what substantiating documentation you need to support our funding request, I will provide it in a timely matter.

If there is any way our District can recoup all or at least some of its E-rate reimbursement funding for 2004-05, we would be grateful. SLD funding is an extremely important District resource.

Thank you for your kind consideration.

Sincerely,
Carol S. Holzberg, PhD (carolh@anthro.umass.edu), District Technology Coordinator
Greenfield Public Schools

cc: Joe Ruscio III (joseph.ruscio@gpsk12.org), Superintendent of Schools
Joyce Mehaffey (jmehaffey@gpsk12.org), Director of Curriculum & Instruction