

ALLEN B. WEST

22ND DISTRICT, FLORIDA

1708 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-0922  
202-225-3026  
FAX 202-225-8398

6300 NE 1ST AVENUE, SUITE 100  
FT. LAUDERDALE, FL 33334  
954-202-6211  
FAX 954-202-6212

3111 SOUTH DIXIE HIGHWAY, SUITE 308  
WEST PALM BEACH, FL 33405  
561-655-1943  
FAX 561-655-8018



**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-0922**

July 26, 2012

COMMITTEES:  
ARMED SERVICES  
SUBCOMMITTEES:  
EMERGING THREATS AND CAPABILITIES  
MILITARY PERSONNEL  
SMALL BUSINESS  
SUBCOMMITTEES:  
INVESTIGATIONS, OVERSIGHT,  
AND REGULATIONS  
CONTRACTING AND WORKFORCE

*UCB  
Rate  
964*

Mr. Julius Genachowski  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554-0004

Dear Mr. Genachowski:

I am writing on behalf of the School District of Palm Beach County and the many other E-Rate recipients.

As you know, the nationwide requests for the 2012-2013 School Year E-Rate funding far exceeds the available funds, which leaves the Federal Communication Commission (FCC) and the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) to answer how they will appropriate the funds available to them. The funding shortfall has occurred in a critical time for the nation and specifically the School District of Palm Beach County where local revenue shortfalls and an overwhelming need for infrastructure upgrades directly impact classrooms and students.

As you decide how the E-Rate funds will be appropriated, I ask you to consider the following points as guidelines:

- E-Rate funding for Internal Connections (Priority 2) should be distributed first to those who have not received these funds in the past. The highest priority for receiving these funds should go to those school districts that qualify and have never received Priority 2. This would add a fairness and equity component to the decision process.
- Digital Literacy Training should not be funded from E-Rate funds. An underfunded program should not be burdened with other responsibilities, which severely compromises the ability for it to meet the original and primary objectives. Digital Literacy is very important, but must not be funded from E-Rate funds.
- E-Rate funds for Priority 2 must not be held for future years. It must be distributed now. A missed year of instruction is unrecoverable.
- If prorating of Priority 2 funds is a necessity, then it should apply only to those who have received Priority 2 in the past. However, those applying for the first time should receive the full amount for which they are qualified.

6 AUG 2012 RCVD

Thank you for your consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact my office if you have any further questions.

Steadfast and Loyal,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Allen B. West". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Allen B. West  
Member of Congress

AW/jg

cc: Robert M. McDowell, Commissioner  
Mignon Clyburn, Commissioner  
Jessica Rosenworcel, Commissioner  
Ajit Pai, Commissioner  
David Robbins, Managing Director



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

January 3, 2013

JULIUS GENACHOWSKI  
CHAIRMAN

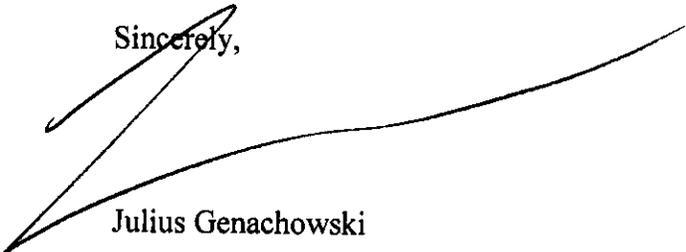
The Honorable Allen West  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1708 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman West:

Thank you for your letter regarding the School District of Palm Beach County's application for 2012-2013 E-rate funding. I appreciate your interest in this matter and am pleased to provide the enclosed letter on this issue from the Chief of the Wireline Competition Bureau's Telecommunications Access Policy Division.

If you have any additional questions or need any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Julius Genachowski

Enclosure



Federal Communications Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20554

January 3, 2013

The Honorable Allen West  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1708 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman West:

Thank you for your letter on behalf of the School District of Palm Beach County and other recipients of funding under the schools and libraries universal service support mechanism, commonly referred to as the E-rate program. Specifically, you ask that we consider certain points as guidelines, including the distribution of "priority 2" funding for internal connections, as we determine how best to allocate E-rate funding.

Under the E-rate program, funds are allocated according to rules of priority, with first priority provided to requests for telecommunications services and Internet access (priority one services). The remaining available funds are allocated to requests for support for internal connections and basic maintenance of internal connections (priority two services). Requests for priority two services are allocated first to applicants whose applications are eligible for 90 percent discount levels, then to those eligible for 89 percent discount levels, and so on, until the available funds are exhausted. If the remaining funds are not sufficient to support all of the funding requests within a particular discount level, the Commission's rules provide that the total amount of remaining funds must be divided by the amount of funding requests within the particular discount level to produce a pro-rata factor. The support level for each applicant is then reduced within that discount level based on the pro-rata factor. The Commission's rules also require that, in the second quarter of each calendar year, all unused funds from prior years must be available for use in the next full funding year of the E-rate program.

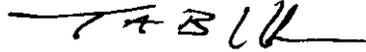
As technology evolves and the demand for funding increases, the Commission has continually sought comment on ways in which we can improve and reform the E-rate program. We will take your comments into consideration as we strive to balance the goal of providing the important benefits of the E-rate program to all eligible schools and

Page 2 – The Honorable Allen West

libraries with the need to protect the integrity of the program and investigate potential waste, fraud and abuse.

Thank you for your support of the E-rate program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T B Harkrader', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Trent B. Harkrader  
Chief  
Telecommunications Access Policy Division  
Wireline Competition Bureau