

April 6, 2013

Nosotros Academy
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Tucson, AZ 85745
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ATTN: Federal Communications Commission - **REQUEST FOR WAIVER**

We write this as a formal request for waiver of the filing window deadlines for ERATE funding in the 2013-2014 academic school year.

Here is some information related to our entity and our filings:

Nosotros Academy

BEN: 227774

Forms 471: **931755** (Priority 1 services) & **933490** (Priority 2 services)

FRNS: Telecommunications: 2546526

Internet: 2546507

Basic Maint. Of Int. Connections: 2551226

Internal Connections: 2551227, 2551228, 2551229

We request consideration for our funding requests outside of the filing window.

Several circumstances have affected our school in the last year and have made filing these documents within the appropriate window more difficult than usual. The circumstances also speak well to the needs of our school, and the imperative nature of receiving consideration for these funding requests.

Foremost, our school suffered a near 50% turnover in instructional staff leading into the current academic school year. One full-time teacher in our middle school even left abruptly at the end of our first semester. Of these individuals that left, one was a teacher who was solely responsible for management of our ERATE forms and applications. We were able to retain him in a very limited part time status to assist with ERATE while we seek a replacement staff member to take on the required responsibilities.

In addition to this flux of staff, our school was recently placed on a performance management review by the Arizona State Board for Charter Schools. In this process we have been actively undertaking novel school improvement measures this school year. Our school is a Title 1 school servicing students of high need (approximately 83% of our students are free and reduced lunch eligible students), and students of high mobility, often students who have had difficulties in other schools and come to Nosotros for a second chance (analyses in 2011 found that over 50% of our students by year end had not began the school year at Nosotros Academy). Additionally, we are awaiting review of an application to the Arizona Department of Education which would deem Nosotros Academy an 'alternative' school, more reflective of the demographics we serve. While we have shown above-median growth percentiles for our students, we are in need of increased interventions to bring up proficiency levels per our performance management plan. Having ERATE funding is instrumental in our success in these school improvement endeavors.

With ERATE funding, we will be able to make use of two storage rooms, converting them to classrooms, and allowing for increased instructional time in math and English. Additionally, we will have greater funds available to pay highly qualified teaching staff to become team members of our school, as we continue replacing those lost in the last school year.

Respectfully,



Michael Sweeney
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