PEORIA public schools

Where remarkable happens every day

July 30, 2013

To Whom It May Concern:

Re: Proceeding # 02-6

According to ISTE- International Society for Technology in Education, "Educational technology standards are the roadmap to teaching effectively and growing professionally in an increasingly digital world. Technology literacy is a crucial component of modern society. In fact, the globalizing economy and technological advances continue to place a premium on a highly skilled labor force."

Peoria Public Schools is meeting the needs of our teachers and students by implementing the Gaggle tools for collaboration. While email is important, the Gaggle collaboration tools are critical to moving us towards a safe environment which allows our students to become expert learners in the digital world. It also fulfills our green initiative to move towards a more paperless environment.

Gaggle's collaboration tools allow us to keep our children safe, both through the filtering and also the Cyber Safety course that we can provide to our students through these tools. Without these secure online collaboration tools from Gaggle, we would have to find alternative collaboration tools which currently do not even exist with our existing website hosting provider. Our extensive search for the best tools at the best price resulted in our choice of Gaggle for online collaboration tools, and the loss of E-Rate funding for collaboration tools would negatively impact our students' continued learning.

We respectfully request that the FCC maintain Gaggle's programs as eligible products. Our students, our teachers, our district need to continue focusing on improving our educational goals. Losing the E-Rate funding for Gaggle's collaboration tools would mean removing educational services so desperately needed by our district.

Sincerely,

Michelle Seipel

Michelle Seipel
LAN/WAN Administrator
Peoria Public Schools District #150