



838 Kearny Street
San Francisco, CA 94108

Dear Members of the FCC:

St. Mary's School, 838 Kearny Street, San Francisco, California 94108 hereby submits a petition for waiver of the 2013 deadline for utilizing universal service discounts for our first year of application to the schools and libraries program.

St. Mary's School believes that this petition demonstrates particular facts and special circumstances sufficient to warrant a departure from the general rule established in the FCC Order. Accordingly, we ask that the FCC grants St. Mary's petition to waive the deadline

St. Mary's School was founded in 1921 as a mission of the Paulist Fathers, recognizing the need for social support and formal education to help the Chinese immigrants find better jobs, integrate into society, and protect their future. At the time and until World War II, the only grammar school available to Chinese children was the public Oriental School, which was the culmination of calls by mainstream San Franciscans to isolate the Japanese and the Chinese in a segregated public school system and fueled by the San Francisco Chronicle, which headed an anti-Japanese campaign in the City. The Paulist Fathers rejected this segregated educational system and heeded the call for educational access and opportunities for the Chinese community. The Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange were invited to open a school on the new site at Stockton and Clay Streets.

After moving to a new site in 2010, after a decades long process of fundraising and rebuilding, in 2013, a new administrative team was put in place in the summer. The administration drastically changed the admissions criteria and financial aid availability in the community. First, the number of financial aid students increased to 60% of the student population of 120. Second, the school Free School Lunch Program application was utilized to attest to the eligibility of financial aid. Third, 60% of the students now qualify for free or reduced lunches. Fourth, the school now qualifies for all eligible Title I and Title II funding attesting to the drastic need and shift in the student population. Finally, most relevant to the need for telecommunications services, in the new school year of 2013-2014, our new administrative team of educational innovators and experts in learning, curriculum, and technology, will launch St. Mary's School into the 21st century as a STEM School. St. Mary's students will have a special emphasis on comprehensive science and technology instruction based on the Association for the Advancement of Science report, Project 2061, and enGauge: 21st Century Skills. Instructional strategies and student activities include discovering practical solutions to scientific problems and student-generated questions. Students are taught how to find solutions and to answer questions by applying 21st century skills: Digital-Age Literacy, Inventive Thinking, Effective Communication, and High Productivity. As students practice the principles of scientific inquiry, design, and application, they develop an increasingly complex

understanding of the relationship among science, technology, history, communications, and the human experience. Technology is most certainly at the core of these drastic changes.

The school, in order to survive needs to rely on universal service discount funding to complete its network installation project, without which its students would be virtually cut off from the curriculum. Furthermore, St. Mary's lacks sufficient funding to undergo the needed internet capacity without universal service discount. Thus, we petition for waiver and an extension of the deadline for implementing services.

Generally, the Commission's rules may be waived for good cause shown. As noted by the Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit, agency rules are presumed valid, and "an applicant for waiver faces a high hurdle even at the starting gate." We understand the hurdle facing our small and community focused school and we ask the Commission to exercise its discretion to waive a rule where the particular facts make strict compliance inconsistent with the public interest. In addition, we ask the Commission to take into account considerations of hardship, equity, and more effective implementation of overall policy on an individual basis. A Waiver will allow educators in Chinatown to better serve the public interest.

Jeffrey Kwong
Principal

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