

ECRA  
El Camino Real Academy

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August 29, 2013

FCC  
Washington DC

RE: Erate Funding

Dear Sirs:

We are a small charter school in the South Valley of Bernalillo County, New Mexico. Our student population of 350 is 94% free and reduced lunch qualified.

The state of New Mexico provides the operational funding for our school based through the state general fund. As a result, we have seen budget reductions for the last four years. The availability of e-rate funding is critical to us as the costs for internet and phone services would otherwise increase our operational costs by \$28,000. For us that would mean a staff reduction in the classrooms of an educational assistant, which helps lower our teacher to student ratios.

E-Rate also provides Priority 2 funding, which is the only way we have to get infrastructure funding for routers, switches, cable drops and wireless capacity for our school. There is very little capital funding available and we have no access to bond monies through the Districts.

This infrastructure becomes even more critical as the new common core standards and assessments come on-line because textbooks and tests are now online and require even more computers and bandwidth in order to advance in this digital age.

Please, do not discontinue or decrease this funding source. In fact increase it, because it is our student's future that is at stake.

Sincerely

Mary Scofield  
Business Manager

Paym Greene  
Principal