



Orleans Parish School Board

3520 General DeGaulle Drive – 5th Floor * New Orleans, Louisiana * 70114
(504)304-5594 ofc * (504)379-5594 fax * (504)228-7618 cell

Peggy Villars Abadie – Executive Director-IT
Peggy_Abadie@nops.k12.la.us

November 12, 2012

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Ms. Dortch:

As required by DA 11-1181, enclosed is our final report on Mary Bethune Elementary Schools participation in the Learning on the Go Pilot Program. Unfortunately there is very little useful information we can provide beyond what was included in our interim report, included as Attachment 1 to this report. Due to lack of funding from the FCC and the inability to fund the project locally our program was terminated.

When we originally decided to apply for the pilot we incorrectly assumed that the FCC would allow the pilot to continue for at least three years in order to allow for adequate time to implement the programs and to gather meaningful results on the efficacy of the programs. Had we known that the program would only be funded for one year we likely would not have participated in the pilot in order to avoid the startup and shut down costs associated with the program. At Bethune the majority of the students do not have access to the Internet at home so in an effort to maintain parity and avoid unnecessary wear and tear on the equipment we no longer allow the students to take the devices home and they only use the devices while at school.

Project Benefits

- (a) a description of how the wireless devices were integrated into the project's curriculum and objectives (including approximately how many times per week the wireless devices were used to access program materials remotely and how many wireless devices were used during this period of time);

No additional information to be reported beyond what was included in the interim report. The wireless devices were deactivated less than three months after the submission of our interim report.

- (b) if available, a detailed summary of any data collected by the school or library on the project's outcomes and achievement of the project's goals, including usage of educational and research resources by students and library patrons and number of devices actually used;

- for schools, include any data collected regarding the impact on test scores or other measures of achievement levels for those students participating in the off-premises wireless project.

No additional information to be reported beyond what was included in the interim report. The wireless devices were deactivated less than three months after the submission of our interim report.

- (c) if available, a copy of any results or summary of the results of any survey given to students, teachers, parents or library patrons to assess any aspects of the off-premises wireless project;

Project Costs

- (a) an analysis of the per student or per patron cost of the off-premises connectivity;
 - for schools, specify, by term used by the school (for example, by quarter or semester), the number of students and teachers involved or served as part of the project, the number of those students and teachers involved or served that were able to participate as a result of E-rate support, and, where appropriate, the number of students at each grade level using the wireless devices for Internet access for each specified term;

The project involved seven teachers and 188 students. The afterhours access was not provided to teachers as they have access off site and have no need for the district to provide it. Of the 188 students included in the project only 176 actually took devices home owing to resistance from the parents of 12 students. These parents were unwilling to sign off taking responsibility for the devices during the times they would have been out of the school. In total USAC disbursed \$59,938.25 for the Bethune LOGO Program for a total cost per participating student of \$378.40 per year.

Effectiveness of Protective Measures

- (a) a detailed description of the measures, including specific software or filtering mechanisms, that were taken to ensure compliance with the Children's Internet Protection Act as well as a description of measures that were taken to protect against waste, fraud and abuse; and --

No additional information to be reported beyond what was included in the interim report. The wireless devices were deactivated less than three months after the submission of our interim report.

- (b) a detailed description of what, if any, issues arose in ensuring that the wireless devices were used only for educational purposes.

No additional information to be reported beyond what was included in the interim report. The wireless devices were deactivated less than three months after the submission of our interim report.

Lessons Learned

- (a) a description of any technical, operational, or administrative problems or issues associated with implementing the project (such as barriers in using the wireless devices or difficulties with the service) and a description of how those issues were addressed or are being addressed; and –

Other than the lessons learned mentioned in the interim report the most notable lesson relates to professional development of the teachers. If we had it to do over again we would have instituted mandatory professional development for teachers relating to how they intended to integrate the technology into the curriculum.

- (b) a narrative of the lessons learned as a result of the off-premise wireless project (for example, based on what you learned from the project, how would you plan and implement your project differently if you were doing it over again?).

Based on our experience we would be hesitant to participate in such a pilot unless funding sources were secured for a period of at least three years. It is our opinion that an effective pilot program requires at least three years of operation in order to get an accurate reading on the effectiveness of the program.

This concludes our final report on our participation in the Learning on the Go Pilot Program.

Sincerely,



Peggy Villars Abadie
Executive Director-IT