

January 23, 2014

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communication Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Notice of *Ex Parte* Communication, WC Docket No. 13-184

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On January 10, 2014, Bridget Duff, Tabitha Hunter, and Ed Peters of the Florida Department of Management Services Division of Telecommunications (DMS) spoke via telephone with Lisa Hone, James Bachtell, Mark Walker, Charles Eberle, Cara Voth, and Michael Steffen of the Federal Communications Commission. The following topics were discussed.

- *Florida Technology Resources Inventory Survey*. DMS staff discussed the results of the Florida Technology Resources Inventory, an annual, self-reported survey of K-12 principals and technology staff that solicits information on technology planning, infrastructure, and available equipment. Bandwidth usage data for all Florida schools from the 2012-2013 survey was attached to the DMS comments in the above-referenced rulemaking. DMS staff explained that the survey asked respondents to select a range of bandwidth, and the summary chart reported the low end of that range for each school. Florida has adopted the State Educational Technology Directors Association (SETDA) broadband speed goals cited in the Commission's *E-Rate Modernization NPRM* and the chart attached to the DMS comments is intended to show what speeds schools need to meet those goals.

44% of survey respondents answered that their district owns its own wide area network (WAN). DMS staff explained that this result may be artificially high because respondents may have been trying to indicate that other units of local government own or control their own municipal networks. Of the 2993 schools included in the survey respondent pool, 2634 reported the school had a fiber connection to the district WAN. The Department of Education (DOE) recently completed a new survey on K-12 school connectivity, and results will be publicly available soon.

- *DMS Education Services*. Florida K-12 schools have the option of purchasing bundled Internet access service through a statewide broadband network procured by DMS. DMS leases lit fiber from AT&T for the network. DMS offers a secure Internet bundle that includes Internet access, transport from the district or school demarcation point to the

public Internet, customer premises equipment, and a firewall. The DMS contract with AT&T includes dedicated transport throughout the state to Internet points of presence in major cities. DMS also offers telephony, though not every school that purchases the Internet bundle also purchases telephony.

DMS provides E-rate training that includes an explanation of the state master contract with AT&T. DMS also has a business development team that is responsible for making sure that all state government entities are aware of DMS technology services and rates. Though the majority of schools in Florida purchase service on their own rather than through the state contract, DMS staff noted that schools are increasingly interested in state-level assistance with technology purchasing and planning. DMS recently established an E-rate team to handle this increased workload and, beginning in 2013, DMS will be the billed entity for service purchased by Florida K-12 schools from the state network. To date, DMS has filed separate Forms 471 for each school or school district customer. Those schools or districts also file their own Forms 471 for other E-rate eligible services. DMS requested \$10.4 million in E-rate funds for 2013.

DMS staff provided pricing for the state master contract and secure Internet bundle (attached). The current master contract has been in place for five years and DMS received multiple bids. DMS does not have data comparing master contract pricing to pricing for districts that have negotiated their own rates, but is seeking pricing data as part of a new statewide survey. DMS staff noted that their pricing is competitive with the limited data they've reviewed to date.

- *Internal Connections Data.* DMS is currently analyzing data collected from the districts that details connectivity within the schools such as the number of classrooms and devices connected to the Internet. The existing survey did not collect this type of data. DOE has conducted a statewide analysis of WiFi availability and costs to provide comprehensive WiFi for all K-12 schools. FCC staff is contacting DOE for further information on this analysis.
- *Misc.*
 - Every Florida high school student may elect to attend high school online through the Florida Virtual School. The Florida Virtual School receives very little E-rate support because most students participate from home.
 - Beginning with the 2015-2016 school year, instructional materials for students in K-12 must be provided in electronic or digital format. DMS staff will provide the FCC with additional data on broadband connectivity and pricing from the most recent Florida Innovates survey and provide additional data from new surveys once they are released.

Respectfully submitted,

 /s/

Charles Eberle

Attorney-Adviser, Telecommunications Access Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau

Attachment