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Myrna MartinezDear Harlandale Family, Since 1998, the District has received federal funding under what is called the E-Rate program. Recently, a significant portion was eliminated by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). The affected portion funded equipment, cabling, Tue 10: 44 AM

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To: MMyrna Martinez

Tuesday, March 25, 2014 10: 44 AM

Dear Harlandale Family,

Since 1998, the District has received federal funding under what is called the E-Rate program. Recently, a significant portion was eliminated by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). The affected portion funded equipment, cabling, wireless infrastructure, and basic maintenance on our network equipment (more commonly known as Priority 2). The FCC is using these monies to increase the amount allocated to Internet speed/bandwidth (more commonly known as Priority 1).

What this means to the District, to your classroom and to our students is that it will be a more arduous and delayed process in maintaining and replacing the current infrastructure of the District. In spite of more bandwidth, the data will be slow in traveling from the outside to the classroom if this infrastructure is not maintained and updated. Note that in the past five years, the District has received a value (Priority 2 items) totaling over \$11 million with the District's share of the cost at only \$1.1 million (thus allowing monies to go back into instruction and other initiatives).

That is why, on behalf of the Superintendent, we ask the Harlandale community, the students, the parents and the staff to make our voices heard and insist that the FCC rollback that termination of funding. We have learned that the NUMBER OF COMMENTS protesting this act can serve to rescind the FCC's decision.

Please Submit an Express Filing to the FCC on their web site at:  
<http://apps.fcc.gov/ecfs/hotdocket/list>

Docket 13-184 Modernizing the E-Rate Program for Schools and Libraries - fill in the simple comment form. You can add your own words or to make commenting even easier, you can copy & paste the following paragraph.

The FCC should recognize that digital learning not only requires a broadband connection to schools and libraries but also the infrastructure within the site that can deliver the bandwidth without diluting that speed. Schools and libraries lack the infrastructure to use faster connections. Spending money on faster bandwidth to the doorstep without adequate cabling and wireless equipment to deliver it internal to the student makes no sense. The decision to deny Priority 2 E-Rate funds guarantees the fastest superhighway to nowhere! Please reconsider your decision and rescind the decision to eliminate Priority 2 funding. Thank you for your consideration.