

STETSON SCHOOL
P.O. Box 309
Barre, MA 01005
Phone 978-355-4541 • Fax 978-355-4901
E-mail zbardossy@stetsonschool.org

August 24, 2014

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

**Re CC Docket No. 02-6
In the matter of Request for Review of a Decision of the Universal
Service Administrator**

Appeal of 6/25/2014 Funding Commitment Decision Letter
Applicant STETSON SCHOOL (BEN 19)
Funding Application #978111
FRNs 2692813, 2692676, 2692868, and 2692833

Dear Ms. Dortch,

Applicant Stetson School ("Stetson") respectfully appeals the reduction of the discount rate for each of the captioned funding requests from 90% to 20%, and requests the relief stated below.

Background

Block 4 of the captioned Funding Application establishes a discount rate of 90%.

During PIA Review the PIA Reviewer requested information about student NSLP participation. Since NSLP approval in Massachusetts is via an online system operated by the state's Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, we provided screen images from that system confirming Stetson's NSLP participation.

On 6/25/2014 USAC issued a Funding Commitment Decision Letter approving all eligible amounts listed on the Funding Application, but with program support at only the minimum 20% discount rate.

On 7/3/2014 in response to our inquiry, Mr. J. Robert Spiller (Manager, Program Management / Ombudsman at USAC) explained in his email that "the requested 90% discount was reduced to the minimum 20% because the information

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provided by the applicant to support their request was not from a third party source, such as the State might provide”.

Discussion

We regret that the information we supplied regarding our NSLP participation was not satisfactory to the PIA Reviewer; if the Reviewer had only notified us of his concerns after he reviewed our response but before he completed his review, we would have been pleased to obtain and provide additional supporting information.

In the *Atlantic City Schools Order*¹, the Federal Communications Commission (“Commission”), consistent with precedent cited in that order², addressed six appeals by appellants similarly situated to Stetson. In each case the Commission 1) granted the requests for review; 2) remanded the appeals back to USAC for further processing; and 3) directed USAC to provide appellants an opportunity to file additional documentation to support their calculations of the correct discount rates.

Relief requested

For the reasons stated in this letter, Stetson respectfully requests it be granted the same relief granted to appellants in the *Atlantic City Schools Order*, i.e., remand to USAC with an order to grant Stetson the opportunity to file additional documentation to support our calculations of the correct discount rate.

Sincerely,
STETSON SCHOOL



Zoltan Bardossy
IT Director

¹ See *Requests for Waiver and Review of Decisions of the Universal Service Administrator by Atlantic City Schools, Atlantic City, New Jersey et al., Schools and Libraries Universal Service Support Mechanism*, CC Docket No. 02-6, Order DA 14-1083, Wireline Comp. Bur. 2014 (released 7/30/2014).

² See *Requests for Review of the Decision of the Universal Service Administrator by Academia Claret, Puerto Rico et al.; Schools and Libraries Universal Service Support Mechanism*, CC Docket No. 02-6, Order, 21 FCC Rcd 10703 (Wireline Comp. Bur. 2006) (*Academia Claret Order*); *Requests for Waiver and Review of Decisions of the Universal Service Administrator by Aberdeen School District 5 et al.; Schools and Libraries Universal Service Support Mechanism*, CC Docket No. 02-6, Order, 27 FCC Rcd 2152 (Wireline Comp. Bur. 2012) (*Aberdeen Discount Order*); *Requests for Waiver and Review of Decisions of the Universal Service Administrator by Bright Star Schools Consortium, Los Angeles, California et al.*, CC Docket No. 02-6, Order, 28 FCC Rcd 11204 (Wireline Comp. Bur. 2013) (*Bright Star Discount Order*).