

Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

In the Matter of)	
)	
Request for Review of the)	
Decision of the)	
Universal Service Administrator by)	
)	
Richland School District)	File No. SLD USCN 662070000289401
Johnstown, Pennsylvania)	
)	
Federal-State Joint Board on)	CC Docket No. 96-45
Universal Service)	
)	
Changes to the Board of Directors of the)	CC Docket No. 97-21
National Exchange Carrier Association, Inc.)	

ORDER

Adopted: May 15, 2001

Released: May 16, 2001

By the Common Carrier Bureau, Accounting Policy Division:

1. The Bureau has under consideration a Request for Review filed by Richland School District (Richland).¹ Richland seeks review of a decision issued by the Schools and Libraries Division (SLD) of the Universal Service Administrative Company (Administrator) pursuant to a funding request for telecommunications services and internal connections.² For the reasons set forth below, we grant Richland's Request for Review and remand Richland's funding application to SLD for further determination in accordance with this Order.

2. Under the schools and libraries universal service support mechanism, eligible schools, libraries, and consortia that include eligible schools and libraries, may apply for discounts for eligible telecommunications services, Internet access, and internal connections.³ In order to receive discounts on eligible services, the Commission's rules require that the applicant submit to the Administrator, a completed FCC Form 470, in which the applicant sets forth the school's technological needs and the services for which it seeks discounts.⁴ Once the school has complied

¹ Letter from Nathaniel Hawthorne, Attorney for Richland School District, to Federal Communications Commission, filed August 17, 2000 (Request for Review).

² See Letter from Schools and Libraries Division, Universal Service Administrative Company, to Paul Karas, Richland School District, issued July 18, 2000 (Notification Letter).

³ 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.502, 45.503.

⁴ 47 C.F.R. § 54.504 (b)(1), (b)(3).

with the Commission's competitive bidding requirements and signed a contract for eligible services, it must file an FCC Form 471 application to notify the Administrator of the services that have been ordered, the carrier with whom the school has signed the contract, and an estimate of funds needed to cover the discounts to be given for eligible services.⁵ This information is generally provided in Block 5 of FCC Form 471. Among other information, Block 5 requires the applicant to indicate services requested, the name of the service provider, the type of service or product for which support is sought, and the estimated total annual pre-discount cost. Using information provided by the applicant in its FCC Form 471, the Administrator determines the amount of discounts for which the school is eligible. Approval of the application is contingent upon the filing of FCC Form 471, and funding commitment decisions are based on information provided by the school or library in this form.

3. In its FCC Form 471, filed on March 29, 2000, Richland sought support for telecommunications services and internal connections for Funding Year 2.⁶ On July 18, 2000, SLD notified Richland that its FCC Form 471 did not meet minimum processing standards. Specifically, SLD stated that, "The USCN referenced in [B]lock 5 is from the wrong funding year."⁷ In its Request for Review, Richland asserts that the File No. USCN 662070000289401 USCN it referenced in Block 5 is from the appropriate funding year, i.e., July 1, 1999 to June 30, 2000. Richland requests that the Commission order SLD to process its FCC Form 471.⁸

4. Based on the information before us, the USCN provided to SLD on Richland's FCC Form 471 matches the USCN indicated on Richland's FCC Form 470. Accordingly, we remand Richland's application to SLD for further determination.

5. ACCORDINGLY, IT IS ORDERED, pursuant to authority delegated under sections 0.91, 0.291, and 54.722(a) of the Commission's rules, 47 C.F.R. §§ 0.91, 0.291, and 54.722(a), that the Appeal filed August 17, 2000, by the Richland School District, Johnstown, Pennsylvania, IS GRANTED to the extent provided herein and we REMAND this matter to the Administrator for further processing consistent with this Order.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Mark G. Seifert
Deputy Chief, Accounting Policy Division

⁵ 47 C.F.R. § 54.504(c).

⁶ FCC Form 471, Richland School District, filed March 29, 2000.

⁷ See Notification Letter at 1. USCN is the Universal Service Control Number.

⁸ See Request for Review at 2.