**Before the**

Federal Communications Commission

Washington, D.C. 20554

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| In the Matter of  Requests for Waiver and Review of Decisions of the Universal Service Administrator by  Archdiocese of San Antonio  San Antonio, Texas, et al.  Schools and Libraries Universal Service Support Mechanism  Establishing Emergency Connectivity Fund to Close the Homework Gap | **)**  **)**  **)**  **)**  **)**  **)**  **)**  **)**  **)**  **)**  **)**  **)**  **)**  **)** | File Nos. SLD-181041865 et al.  CC Docket No. 02-6  WC Docket No. 21-93 |

Order

**Adopted: April 11, 2022 Released: April 11, 2022**

By the Chief, Wireline Competition Bureau:

# Introduction

1. In this order, we grant 15 Petitioners’ requests for a waiver of sections 54.507(c) or 54.1708(b) of the Federal Communications Commission’s (FCC or the Commission) rules concerning the late filing of FCC Forms 471 for funding years 2018 and 2019 in the E-Rate program[[1]](#footnote-3) and ECF FCC Forms 471 filed during the second application filing window in the Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF) program.[[2]](#footnote-4) Specifically, we find that the special circumstances facing these Petitioners warrant a waiver of the Commission’s rules. Accordingly, we remand the applications listed in Appendices A and B to the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) and direct USAC to treat these applications as if they were timely filed and to determine compliance with E-Rate or ECF program rules and requirements no later than 90 calendar days from the release date of this order. We further allow the Petitioner listed in Appendix C to submit their ECF FCC Form 471 for eligible equipment and/or services to be received or delivered between July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2023 (the current applicable timeframe for the second ECF application filing window).[[3]](#footnote-5) We also provide this Petitioner 30 days from the release date of this order to submit and certify their ECF FCC Form 471, and direct USAC to treat the application(s) as if timely filed.

# Background

1. *E-Rate Program.* Eligible schools, libraries, and consortia (that include eligible schools and libraries) may apply for universal service support for eligible equipment and services through the E-Rate program.[[4]](#footnote-6) E-Rate program rules provide that these entities must seek competitive bids for equipment and services eligible for support.[[5]](#footnote-7) In accordance with the Commission’s competitive bidding rules, applicants must submit for posting on USAC’s website an FCC Form 470 requesting bids for eligible equipment and services as the first step to request support for E-Rate eligible services.[[6]](#footnote-8) After submitting an FCC Form 470, applicants must wait at least 28 days before selecting a service provider using price of the eligible equipment and services as the primary factor, and entering into an agreement for services.[[7]](#footnote-9) Once competitive bidding is concluded and a contract signed, applicants must file an FCC Form 471 before the close of the applicable funding year’s application filing window[[8]](#footnote-10) to apply for E-Rate support for the requested equipment and services.[[9]](#footnote-11) However, the Commission has granted waivers of the E-Rate application filing window deadline to applicants that filed their FCC Forms 471 within 14 days of the deadline,[[10]](#footnote-12) as well as to applicants with serious and unexpected medical conditions that filed their applications within 30 days of the close of the application filing window.[[11]](#footnote-13)
2. E-Rate applicants are required to submit their FCC Forms 471 electronically using the E-Rate Productivity Center (EPC), USAC’s web-based account and application management portal for the E-Rate program.[[12]](#footnote-14) Using this system, applicants enter their FCC Form 471 information online and complete the application process by certifying that they are complying with the program’s rules and requirements. EPC does not permit an applicant to submit an FCC Form 471 application without the required certifications.[[13]](#footnote-15) If an applicant files an FCC Form 471 after the application filing window has closed, EPC generates a message informing the applicant that they must file a waiver request with the Commission because the form is late and will not be processed. For funding years 2018 and 2019, this message appeared on the applicant’s EPC screen after the applicant had completed the data entry portion of the application, but before the certification section (i.e., before the applicant was able to certify and submit their application).
3. *Emergency Connectivity Fund Program.* As part of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (the Act), Congress appropriated $7.171 billion to the Federal Communications Commission (Commission) to promulgate rules providing for the distribution of funding from the Emergency Connectivity Fund to eligible schools and libraries for the purchase of eligible equipment and/or advanced telecommunications and information services for use by students, school staff, and library patrons at locations that include locations other than a school or library.[[14]](#footnote-16) On May 10, 2021, the Commission adopted a *Report and Order* establishing the rules for the ECF program to distribute the funding to eligible schools and libraries.[[15]](#footnote-17) The Commission and USAC opened an initial 45-day application filing window from June 29, 2021 to August 13, 2021,[[16]](#footnote-18) and a second 15-day application filing window from September 28, 2021 to October 13, 2021.[[17]](#footnote-19) During these two application filing windows, ECF applicants could request funding for eligible equipment and services that were to be received or delivered between July 1, 2021 and June 30, 2022.[[18]](#footnote-20)
4. In the *Emergency Connectivity Fund* *Report and Order*, the Commission directed USAC to leverage existing E-Rate forms and processes for the ECF program.[[19]](#footnote-21) Accordingly, ECF program applicants must file an ECF FCC Form 471 in the ECF Portal, which was designed to leverage data and processes in EPC to streamline the application process for ECF applicants. In the ECF Portal, an applicant who tries to file an ECF FCC Form 471 after the application filing window has closed will receive a system-generated message before starting the form, which states that the applicant must file a waiver request with the Commission for a late-filed application to be considered for funding. Applicants are required to click “Continue” to proceed with completing and certifying the ECF FCC Form 471 within the ECF Portal.

# Discussion

1. Based on our review of the record and the circumstances presented, we find that, although none of the 15 Petitioners completed their FCC Form 471 applications within the timeframes the Bureau has generally used to waive sections 54.507(c) and 54.1708(b), special circumstances facing these Petitioners warrant a waiver of our rules. Specifically, we find that two of the Petitioners were delayed by a serious and unexpected medical condition of the person responsible for filing the E-Rate application. We further find that the out-of-window messages generated by EPC and the ECF Portal instructing the Petitioners to file requests for waiver with the Commission and the timing of these messages (i.e., before the Petitioners were able to certify and complete their forms) caused confusion and resulted in the Petitioners submitting waivers with the Commission before completing and certifying their FCC Form 471 applications. Coupled with the fact that all of the Petitioners submitted their requests for waiver shortly after the respective filing deadlines, we find good cause to waive sections 54.507(c) and 54.1708(b). Accordingly, we grant the Petitioners’ requests for waiver and direct USAC to treat all of the applications listed in the Appendices A and B as if timely filed and to determine compliance with the respective E-Rate or ECF program rules no later than 90 calendar days from the release date of this order.[[20]](#footnote-22) We further grant the waiver request for the Petitioner listed in Appendix C and provide this Petitioner 30 days from the release date of this order to file their ECF FCC Form 471. We also direct USAC to treat the second window ECF application(s) as timely filed, and to review and determine compliance with the Emergency Connectivity Fund program rules.

## Waiver Requests Filed More Than 30 Days After the E-Rate Funding Year 2018 and 2019 Filing Window Deadlines Due to Serious Medical Conditions

1. Two of the 15 Petitioners explained that serious medical conditions caused them to file their FCC Forms 471 more than 30 days after the applicable application filing window deadline. Culver City Unified School District (Culver City) did not finish filing its application until April 26, 2018 – 35 days beyond the close of the funding year 2018 application filing window. In its request for waiver, Culver City explained that on March 13, 2018, its information technology (IT) director, who is responsible for filing its E-Rate applications, “suffered a serious cycling accident, from which he suffered a concussion. The concussion caused memory and cognitive issues,” which only subsided later.[[21]](#footnote-23) Once the IT director recovered, he completed the application.[[22]](#footnote-24) Gordon Parks Elementary (Gordon Parks) did not finish filing its application until May 9, 2019 – 43 days beyond the close of the funding year 2019 application filing window. In its request for waiver, Gordon Parks explained that at the time when its funding year 2019 application was due, its information technology (IT) director, who is responsible for filing its E-Rate application, was absent due to brain surgery. Once he returned to work, he filed the funding year 2019 FCC Form 471 application.
2. Under these circumstances, we find that waivers are warranted. The Bureau has historically granted waivers to applicants who suffered unexpected, serious medical conditions that caused them to file their E-Rate funding applications late, but still within 30 days of the applicable application filing deadline.[[23]](#footnote-25) Here, while these two Petitioners filed their applications slightly more than 30 days after the applicable deadline, we recognize that the modest increase in time will not impede the efficient administration of the program. Furthermore, the severity of the unexpected medical condition, and its relevance to permitting the applicants to file their E-Rate applications within the application filing window, justify additional time. Taken together, we find that the public interest is served by granting these two Petitioners’ waiver requests in these limited circumstances and direct USAC to treat the Culver City and Gordon Parks E-Rate applications as timely filed.

## Waiver Requests Filed Within 14 Days of the E-Rate Funding Year 2018 Application Filing Deadline

1. Eight of the 15 Petitioners tried to submit E-Rate funding year 2018 FCC Form 471 applications after the March 22, 2018 filing deadline, but within 14 days of that deadline, i.e., on or before April 5, 2018. After completing the data entry portion of their applications, but before completing the last section of certifications, all eight Petitioners received the EPC-generated message indicating that they needed to file waiver requests with the Commission. All eight Petitioners subsequently filed waiver requests of the funding year 2018 application filing deadline with the Commission by April 5, 2018, but failed to certify and complete their FCC Forms 471 before the close of the funding year 2018 application filing window.
2. Upon review of the record, we find that these eight Petitioners reasonably believed that their funding year 2018 applications would be considered for funding despite not having completed the certification section based on the response generated by the EPC system. In particular, we find the timing of that message – before, rather than after, the Petitioners had completed their certifications – problematic in so far as it inaccurately suggested that the Petitioners should discontinue work on their applications and file a waiver request with the Commission to be considered for funding. Given these circumstances, we think it is understandable that the Petitioners did not complete the certification section of their applications before filing their waiver requests. Therefore, because the Petitioners filed their waiver requests within 14 days of the funding year 2018 application filing deadline, even though their applications had not been completed and certified by the deadline, we waive our rules in this instance.
3. Because the Bureau has already denied the requests for waiver for two of the eight Petitioners, Greensboro Free Library (Greensboro) and Upper Hudson Library System (Upper Hudson), we now reconsider those denials on our own motion.[[24]](#footnote-26) Section 1.113 of the Commission’s rules permits actions taken on delegated authority, such as the Bureau’s denial of a request for waiver, to be reconsidered within 30 days of the public notice of the action.[[25]](#footnote-27) Because the Bureau’s decisions denying Greensboro’s and Upper Hudson’s requests for waiver were released more than 30 days ago, we waive section 1.113 requiring that any *sua sponte* reconsideration of an action taken under delegated authority occur within 30 days of that action.[[26]](#footnote-28) Here, we find that we denied both of these waiver requests when, upon full consideration of the facts and circumstances, both waiver requests should be granted consistent with the rest of the requests reviewed here. Accordingly, we find that, under these particular circumstances, the public interest weighs in favor of reversing our prior denial decisions and granting these two Petitioners’ requests for waiver. We direct USAC to treat these two Petitioners’ funding year 2018 applications as timely filed along with the six other similarly-situated Petitioners included in Appendix A. We have further directed USAC to amend the language of the EPC-generated message for applications started and/or completed after the application filing window has closed. Therefore, after this language has been modified, we do not expect to grant additional waivers of the FCC Form 471 filing deadline on this basis absent a showing of extraordinary circumstances.

## Waiver Requests Filed Within 14 Days of the Emergency Connectivity Fund Program Second Application Filing Window Deadline

1. Five of the Petitioners tried to complete and submit their ECF FCC Forms 471 within 14 days of the ECF program’s second application filing window deadline, i.e., October 27, 2021. Upon creating a new ECF FCC Form 471, all five Petitioners received the message in the ECF Portal indicating that they needed to file waiver requests with the Commission to have their late-filed ECF FCC Forms 471 considered for funding. All five Petitioners subsequently filed waiver requests of the ECF program second application filing window deadline with the Commission by October 27, 2021, but failed to complete and submit their ECF FCC Forms 471 before the second application filing window closed because of the confusion caused by the ECF Portal-generated message.
2. Consistent with our findings for the funding year 2018 out-of-window waivers above, upon review of the record, we find that these five Petitioners reasonably believed that they needed a waiver from the Commission based on the response generated by the ECF Portal before they could complete their ECF FCC Forms 471. In particular, we find the timing of that message – before, rather than after, the Petitioners had completed their forms – problematic in so far as it inaccurately suggested that the Petitioners should discontinue work on their applications and file a waiver request with the Commission to be considered for funding. Given these circumstances, we think it is understandable that the Petitioners did not complete their ECF FCC Forms 471 before filing their waiver requests. Therefore, because the Petitioners filed their waiver requests within 14 days of the second ECF application filing window deadline, even though their ECF FCC Forms 471 had not been completed, we waive our rules in this instance.[[27]](#footnote-29) We note that all except one of these five Petitioners eventually completed and certified their late ECF FCC Forms 471, and we direct USAC to treat these second window ECF applications as timely filed.[[28]](#footnote-30) For the Petitioner, Dream Diné Charter School, who filed a waiver request within 14 days of the second application filing window deadline and has not yet completed an application, we provide 30 days from the release date of this order to complete and certify their ECF FCC Form(s) 471 requesting eligible equipment and/or up to 12 months of eligible services to be received between July 1, 2021 and June 30, 2023, and we further direct USAC to treat the second window ECF application(s) as timely filed.[[29]](#footnote-31) We have also directed USAC to amend the language of the ECF Portal-generated message for applications started and/or completed after the application filing window has closed. Therefore, we do not expect to grant additional waivers of the ECF FCC Form 471 filing deadline on this basis absent a showing of extraordinary circumstances.

# Ordering Clauses

1. ACCORDINGLY, IT IS ORDERED, pursuant to the authority contained in sections 1-4 and 254 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. §§ 151-154 and 254, and sections 1.3, 54.722(a), and 54.1718(d)(1), of the Commission’s rules, 47 CFR §§ 1.3, 54.722(a), and 54.1718(d)(1) that the requests for waiver filed by the Petitioners, as listed in the Appendices ARE GRANTED and the applications ARE REMANDED to USAC for further consideration consistent with this order.
2. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, pursuant to sections 0.91, 0.291, and 1.3 of the Commission’s rules, 47 CFR §§ 0.91, 0.291, and 1.3, that sections 54.507(c) and 54.1708(b) of the Commission’s rules, 47 CFR §§ 54.507(c) and 54.1708(b) IS WAIVED for the Petitioners listed in the Appendices to the extent provided herein.
3. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, pursuant to sections 0.91, 0.291, and 1.3 of the Commission’s rules, 47 CFR §§ 0.91, 0.291, and 1.3, that section 1.113 of the Commission’s rules, 47 CFR § 1.113, IS WAIVED for Greensboro Free Library and Upper Hudson Library System to the extent described herein.
4. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, pursuant to section 1.102(b)(1) of the Commission’s rules, 47 CFR § 1.102(b)(1), that this order SHALL BE EFFECTIVE upon release.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Trent B. Harkrader

Chief

Wireline Competition Bureau

**APPENDIX A**

**Remanded Funding Years 2018 and 2019 E-Rate Applications**

| **Petitioner** | **Application**  **Number(s)** | **Docket** | **Date Filed** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Archdiocese of San Antonio  San Antonio, TX | 181041865, 181041868,  181043038, 181043061,  181043063, 181043314,  181043315, 181043316,  181043317, 181043318,  181043319, 181043320,  181043321, 181043322,  181043324, 181043325,  181043326, 181043327 | 02-6 | Mar. 23, 2018 |
| Culver City Unified School District  Culver City, CA | 181042668 | 02-6 | Apr. 26, 2018 |
| Gordon Parks Elementary  Kansas City, MO | 191042319 | 02-6 | May 9, 2019 |
| Greensboro Free Library  Greensboro, VT | 181041968 | 02-6 | Mar. 28, 2018 Apr. 10, 2018 |
| Methacton School District  Eagleville, PA | 181042291 | 02-6 | Apr. 4, 2018 |
| Portland Opportunities Industrialization Center Portland, OR | 181042005, 181042010 | 02-6 | Mar. 27, 2018 |
| Saint Vincent Academy  Newark, NJ | 181041824 | 02-6 | Mar. 23, 2018 |
| Sunnyvale Independent School District  Sunnyvale, TX | 181042261 | 02-6 | Apr. 3, 2018 |
| Upper Hudson Library System  Albany, NY | 181042592 | 02-6 | Apr. 4, 2018 |
| Warren-Alvarado-Oslo School District  Warren, MN | 181031323 | 02-6 | Apr. 3, 2018 |

**APPENDIX B**

**Remanded Emergency Connectivity Fund Program Applications**

| **Petitioner** | **Application**  **Number(s)** | **Docket** | **Date Filed** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Okaloosa Academy  Fort Walton Beach, FL | ECF222121188 | 21-93 | Oct. 25, 2021 |
| The Learning Academy of Santa Rosa  Milton, FL | ECF222121185 | 21-93 | Oct. 25, 2021 |
| Walton Academy  DeFuniak Springs, FL | ECF222121189 | 21-93 | Oct. 25, 2021 |
| Yakama Nation Library  Toppenish, WA | ECF222121175 | 21-93 | Oct. 13, 2021 |

**APPENDIX C**

**Petitioner Granted a Waiver of the Emergency Connectivity Fund Program Second Application Filing Window Deadline and Provided 30 Days to Submit and Certify ECF FCC Form(s) 471**

| **Petitioner** | **Billed Entity**  **Numbers (BEN)** | **Docket** | **Date Filed** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Dream Diné Charter School  Shiprock, NM | 17002250 | 21-93 | Oct. 19, 2021 |

1. The E-Rate program is formally known as the schools and libraries universal service support mechanism. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
2. The Petitioners and Requests for Waiver are listed in the Appendices. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
3. The Petitioner may request up to 12 months of service to be received between July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2023. The Bureau recently extended the service delivery date for equipment, other non-recurring services, and recurring services requests submitted during the first two application filing windows for the ECF Program. *Establishing Emergency Connectivity Fund to Close the Homework Gap*, WC Docket No. 21-93, Order, DA 22-176 (WCB rel. Feb. 22, 2022). Although June 30, 2023 is now the service delivery date for these requests, applicants may only receive up to 12 months of recurring services for this funding period. *See id*. at 4-5, para. 8-9 (explaining that ECF applicants will be able to use the 12 months of requested services and that this action will not allow applicants to receive more funding than what is allowed per program rules). [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
4. 47 CFR §§ 54.501-54.502. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
5. 47 CFR § 54.503. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
6. 47 CFR § 54.503(c). [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
7. 47 CFR § 54.503(c)(4). [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
8. For funding year 2018, the application filing window opened on January 11, 2018 and closed on March 22, 2018, and for funding year 2019, the application filing window opened on January 16, 2019 and closed on March 27, 2019. *See* USAC Schools and Libraries News Brief. Reminders on the Competitive Bidding Process and the FCC Form 470 (dated Jan. 26, 2018), <https://apps.usac.org/sl/tools/news-briefs/preview.aspx?id=813>; Funds for Learning, 2018 E-rate Filing Window Now Open, (dated Jan. 11, 2018), <https://www.fundsforlearning.com/blog/2018/01/2018-e-rate-filing-window-now-open>. USAC Schools and Libraries News Brief: Upcoming Dates and Deadlines for the First Quarter of 2019 (Jan. 4, 2019), <https://apps.usac.org/sl/tools/news-briefs/preview.aspx?id=869>. [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
9. 47 CFR §§ 54.504(a), 54.507(c); *see also Modernizing the E-Rate Program for Schools and Libraries; Connect America Fund,* WC Docket Nos. 13-184, 10-90, Second Report and Order and Order on Reconsideration, 29 FCC Rcd 15538, 15586, text accompanying n.314 (2014) (*2014 Second E-Rate Order*);Schools and Libraries Universal Service, Services Ordered and Certification Form, OMB 3060-0806 (Dec. 2013) (FCC Form 471). [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
10. *See, e.g.*, *Requests for Waiver and Review of Decisions of the Universal Service Administrator by Academy of Math and Science et al.; Schools and Libraries Universal Service Support Mechanism,* CC Docket No. 02-6, Order, 25 FCC Rcd 9256, 9259-60, paras. 7-9 (2010) (*Academy of Math and Science Order*). [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
11. *Id.* [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
12. *Modernizing the E-Rate Program for Schools and Libraries*, WC Docket No. 13-184, Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, 29 FCC Rcd 8870, 8945, para. 190 (2014) (*2014 First E-Rate Order*) (simplifying the E-Rate application process by requiring the use of electronic filings). [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
13. *See* 47 CFR § 54.504(a)(1). [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
14. American Rescue Plan Act, 2021, H.R. 1319, Pub. L. No. 117-2, 117th Cong., tit. VII, § 7402(a)(1)-(2) (2021) (enacted), available at <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/1319/text> (American Rescue Plan Act) (enrolled bill). [↑](#footnote-ref-16)
15. *See generally Establishing the Emergency Connectivity Fund to Close the Homework Gap*; WC Docket No. 21-93, Report and Order, 36 FCC Rcd 8696 (2021) (*Emergency Connectivity Fund Report and Order*). [↑](#footnote-ref-17)
16. News Release, FCC, *FCC Announces Emergency Connectivity Fund Application Window Will Open on June 29* (June 15, 2021), <https://www.fcc.gov/document/emergency-connectivity-fund-application-window-opens-june-29> (*First ECF Application Window News Release*). [↑](#footnote-ref-18)
17. News Release, FCC, *FCC Announces Over $5 Billion in Funding Requests Received in Emergency Connectivity Fund Program* (Aug. 25, 2021), <https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-announces-over-5-billion-emergency-connectivity-fund-requests> (*Second Application Window News Release*). [↑](#footnote-ref-19)
18. *See* 47 CFR § 54.1708(a); *see also* *Emergency Connectivity Fund Report and Order*, 36 FCC Rcd at 8734, 8737, paras. 78, 83. [↑](#footnote-ref-20)
19. *Emergency Connectivity Fund Report and Order*, 36 FCC Rcd at 8740, para. 90. [↑](#footnote-ref-21)
20. Generally, the Commission’s rules may be waived for good cause shown. 47 CFR § 1.3. The Commission may exercise its discretion to waive a rule where the particular facts make strict compliance inconsistent with the public interest. *See* *Northeast Cellular Telephone Co. v. FCC*, 897 F.2d 1164, 1166 (D.C. Cir. 1990) (*Northeast Cellular*). In addition, the Commission may take into account considerations of hardship, equity, or more effective implementation of overall policy on an individual basis. *WAIT Radio v. FCC*, 418 F.2d 1153, 1159 (D.C. Cir. 1969), aff’d, 459 F.2d 1203 (D.C. Cir. 1972) (*WAIT Radio*). The burden of proving that a waiver is appropriate in a particular case rests with the petitioner. *See* *Tucson Radio Inc. v. FCC*, 452 F.2d 1380, 1382 (D.C. Cir. 1971). [↑](#footnote-ref-22)
21. *See* Letter from Vincent LaForgia, on behalf of Culver City Unified School District, to Marlene Dortch, Office of the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission (Apr. 26, 2018) (Culver City Petition). [↑](#footnote-ref-23)
22. *Id.* [↑](#footnote-ref-24)
23. *See, e.g., Streamlined Resolution of Requests Related to Actions by the Universal Service Administrative Company,* CC Docket No 02-6, Public Notice, 33 FCC Rcd 5212, 5218 (WCB 2018). [↑](#footnote-ref-25)
24. *See Streamlined Resolution of Requests Related to Actions by the Universal Service Administrative Company,* CC Docket No 02-6, WC Docket Nos. 02-60, 06-122, Public Notice, 33 FCC Rcd 4421, 4437 (WCB 2018); *Streamlined Resolution of Requests Related to Actions by the Universal Service Administrative Company,* CC Docket Nos. 02-6, 96-45, WC Docket Nos. 06-122, 10-60, 05-337, Public Notice, 33 FCC Rcd 7401, 7407 (WCB 2018). [↑](#footnote-ref-26)
25. 47 C.F.R. § 1.113(a). [↑](#footnote-ref-27)
26. *See, e.g.*, *Requests for Review of the Decision of the Universal Service Administrator by Pioneerland Library System; Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service; Changes to the Board of Directors of the National Exchange Carrier Assoc.,* CC Docket Nos. 96-45, 97-21, Order on Reconsideration, 16 FCC Rcd 3428 (2001) (waiving section 1.113 of the Commission’s rules to permit the reconsideration of a more-than-30-day Bureau denial because it was warranted in that case). [↑](#footnote-ref-28)
27. *See, e.g.*, *Requests for Waiver and Review of Decisions of the Universal Service Administrator by Academy of Math and Science et al.;*[*Schools and Libraries Universal Service Support Mechanism*, CC Docket No. 02-6](https://1.next.westlaw.com/Link/Document/FullText?findType=Y&serNum=2031847295&pubNum=0004031&originatingDoc=I7e63a8619a0f11ecadfff87ce7970f99&refType=RP&originationContext=document&transitionType=DocumentItem&ppcid=6fb6154eb68547be8d5b150af8ffc384&contextData=(sc.Search)), Order, [25 FCC Rcd 9256, 9259, para. 8 (2010)](https://1.next.westlaw.com/Link/Document/FullText?findType=Y&serNum=2022498681&pubNum=0004493&originatingDoc=I7e63a8619a0f11ecadfff87ce7970f99&refType=CA&fi=co_pp_sp_4493_9259&originationContext=document&transitionType=DocumentItem&ppcid=6fb6154eb68547be8d5b150af8ffc384&contextData=(sc.Search)#co_pp_sp_4493_9259) (finding special circumstances existed to justify granting waiver requests where, for example, petitioners filed their FCC Forms 471 within 14 days of the application filing window deadline). Consistent with the Commission’s decision to adopt the similar appeal and waiver rules that govern all of the Universal Service Programs, including the E-Rate Program, and to leverage existing E-Rate processes and forms in the Emergency Connectivity Fund Program, we rely on E-Rate program precedent to resolve petitions for waiver of the Emergency Connectivity Fund Program application filing deadline. *See Establishing the Emergency Connectivity Fund to Close the Homework Gap*, WC Docket No. 21-93, Report and Order, 36 FCC Rcd 8696, 8740, 8746, paras. 90, 107 (2021); *see also Streamlined Resolution of Requests Related to the Actions of the Universal Service Administrative Company*, CC Docket Nos. 02-6, 96-45, WC Docket Nos. 02-60, 21-93, 10-90, 05-337, 06-122, Public Notice, DA 22-188, 2002 WL 605422, at \*2, n.11 (WCB Feb. 28, 2022) (same). [↑](#footnote-ref-29)
28. The Petitioners listed in Appendix B filed waiver requests with the Commission within 14 days of the second application filing deadline and subsequently filed late ECF FCC Form 471 applications following communications with Commission staff regarding the confusion surrounding the waiver requirements. [↑](#footnote-ref-30)
29. Dream Diné Charter School is listed in Appendix C. [↑](#footnote-ref-31)