

May 15, 2009

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW, Room TWB-204
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Notice of Ex Parte - Schools and Libraries Universal Service Support Mechanism, Docket 02-6

Dear Ms. Dortch:

This is to inform you that on May 4th, 2009, representatives from the E-Rate Management Professionals Association, Inc., (E-MPA) listed below, met with several FCC staff members, also listed below.

E-MPA members attending

Kenny Acklin, Kenny Acklin & Associates
Fred Brakeman, Infinity Communications & Consulting, Inc
Kimberly Friends, CSM, Inc.
John Harrington, Funds for Learning , LLC
Bretton Himsworth, E-Rate Central
Jane Kellogg, Kellogg & Sovereign Consulting, LLC
Robert Richter, E-Rate Provider Service, LLC
Daniel Riordan, On-Tech Consulting, Inc
Richard Senturia, eRateProgram, LLC
Debi Sovereign, Kellogg & Sovereign Consulting, LLC

FCC staff members attending

Jennifer McKee – TAPD Division chief
Gina Spade
Dana Bradford
Regina Brown
Erica Myers
Mark Nadel
Divya Shenoy

The purpose of the meeting was to introduce E-MPA and to provide FCC staff with information about the role of E-rate Management Professionals in the USF Schools and Libraries Program (“the E-rate program”). The following items were discussed:

Program Compliance Increasing

The majority of E-rate applicants are in compliance with FCC regulations. Waste, fraud, and abuse is isolated and, in most cases, it occurred in early years of the program.

Stakeholders Seek Professional Support

E-rate stakeholders are increasingly aware of their need to carefully follow E-rate rules and regulations. A recent GAO report noted that 80% of E-rate participants rate paid consultants as useful or very useful. This is more than any other category of support.

As a result, many applicants now turn to fulltime professionals for compliance support. In 2008, a national survey of applicants indicated that 40% of all E-Rate applications over \$100,000 were prepared with professional, third-party support.

Association of E-rate Management Professionals

E-MPA was formed to support the long-term health and effectiveness of the E-rate program. It will do so by addressing the needs and unique role played by third-party E-rate compliance professionals. The Association's mission statement clearly defines E-MPA's role:

To promote excellence and ethics in E-Rate professional management and consulting through certification, education and professional services

E-MPA's members have diverse backgrounds and serve a wide variety of E-rate stakeholders, including both applicants and service providers. E-MPA's current members:

- A. Average over 10 years of E-Rate experience
- B. Represent over 6% of applicants and over 10% of funding requests for 2009
- C. Have experienced over 50 audits in the past 16 months

E-MPA Code of Ethics

E-MPA has developed a strong code of ethics which members are required to follow. The full code is available on the Association's web site at <http://www.e-mpa.org/code-of-ethics/>.

E-MPA plans to continue setting high standards of ethical and procedural standards for E-Rate professionals. It will do so through education, training and future certifications.

Resource for Continuing Improvement

E-MPA desires to support the FCC and USAC in the regulation and administration of the E-rate. E-MPA will provide constructive feedback and suggestions to enable the FCC and USAC to continue to improve the E-rate program. At the same time, E-MPA will emphasize to the overall E-rate community the need for professional standards in E-rate compliance support.

One electronic copy of this Notice is being submitted to the Secretary of the FCC in accordance with Section 1.1206 of the Commissions' rules.

Respectfully submitted,



John D. Harrington
President

E-rate Management Professionals Association, Inc.