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BALDWIN COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Building Excellence

www.bcbe.org

**INFORMATION
TECHNOLOGY
SERVICES**

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September 6, 2005

To Whom It May Concern:

The schools in Baldwin County have benefited greatly from the e-rate program. Beginning in 1998 and continuing through the current year of the program, the discounts provided have made it possible for the district to network all of the classrooms and provide Internet access to every teacher and student. The discounts on monthly telephone service, cell phone service, and web hosting have released funds for purchasing additional computers for classrooms and professional development.

Access to network resources and especially the Internet provides teachers and students with instructional opportunities that were not possible before. Teachers and students used to dream of visiting places associated with their school studies or reading original documents pertaining to history; now they can do these things and much more. This same access provides an efficient method of communicating for administrators, teachers, students, parents, and the community. With e-mail and web hosting, parents and the community in general know what is going on in our schools.

These are just a few examples of what e-rate has done for the Baldwin County Public Schools. Without this valuable federal program, I don't know how we would be able to provide access to the resources that have become such a vital and necessary part of teaching and learning. Please do everything in your power to ensure that this valuable program remains in place for years to come.

Sincerely,

Fran Pridgeon
Technology Coordinator