



DANNY WEEKS, SUPERINTENDENT

November 18, 2005

Dear Senator/Representative

I wanted to share my gratitude on behalf of our students and faculty for the help that we have received the past several years through the E-rate program. We, at Elba City Schools, would not have the resources for teaching and learning that are available to us through our Local Area Network (LAN) and all that it brings to us through the Internet if not for the supplemental funding we have received through E-Rate.

We were able to install our LAN and all the wiring and electronics necessary to make it work only with the help of E-Rate money. We are a small rural school system and there is no way we could have afforded these resources from state and local funding. The expertise to keep it maintained and to provide Internet service is also out of our reach financially without the E-Rate funds.

Resources available to our faculty and staff through our network include the Alabama Virtual Library, email accounts for our teachers and administrators that are used for communication with parents and the community, training in the areas of curriculum and technology for our teachers, and all the wealth of academic resources the Internet brings to the teacher and the classroom.

It is our fervent hope that you will do all you can from the position you hold to see that the E-Rate program continues to be funded so that Elba City Schools does not lose access to the resources we now enjoy as we strive to prepare our students for success in the 21st Century.

Sincerely,

David Stokes
Technology Coordinator / Federal Programs Coordinator
Elba City Schools
Elba, Alabama