

Henry County Board of Education

OFFICE OF
SUPERINTENDENT

P.O. BOX 635
Abbeville, Alabama 36310
334-585-2206
FAX 334-585-2551

DENNIS R. COE
COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT

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September 19, 2005

Dear Sir or Madam:

I would like to share with you my thoughts on how the Henry County School System could function without E-Rate support. The fact of the matter is that we could not. We depend on E-rate support to enable all computers in our school system to be Internet-ready computers. Every computer in our Schools is equipped with Internet and Network Resources due to E-rate support and funding.

We have portable labs at the Middle and High Schools that enable teachers to incorporate the Internet into their class lessons. The Elementary Schools have walk-in labs that children use for Accelerated Reading tests via Network Resources. These resources are used hour upon hour every single day and without them, our students and children will not have access to the resources they need to have a strong Educational background. Without this support we would have to reduce the funding in other areas to maintain our Internet and Network connectivity. These cutbacks will diminish the functionality of our other programs and will hurt the productivity as students, individual Schools, and even as a System.

Every classroom in our school district is equipped with a computer with internet access provided through E-rate. Teachers use the connectivity to research data

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required by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 such as school improvement plans, researched-based instruction and materials, and quality professional development. Without the support provided by E-rate, it would be extremely difficult to comply with the No Child Left Behind Act.

We also depend on E-Rate support for our telephone system at the Central Office in our day-to-day operations. We have 12 offices in our Central Office and we are constantly in contact with each other, the Schools, and the general public. Without it, our communications

with the Schools, the Community, and each other would not exist. When we are out of the Central Office, we are totally dependant on our Southern Linc radio/phones. They provide instant communication between all Central Office Supervisors, and each School Principal as well. We are able to communicate immediately with whomever we need to at the touch of a button.

Please understand that the Henry County School System depends upon the funding from E-rate to maintain our Internet connectivity and Telecommunications. E-rate funding helps to maintain day-to-day operations through the Internet and Telecommunications. If it is reduced or abandoned, not only will we have an excess of Technology that will be useless, we will have students that will suffer down the road for that lack of Technology. I ask for you to please support E-rate and don't let what we all have worked so hard for just fade away. Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,



Geoff Jones
Technology Coordinator
Henry County Schools