



MADISON COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM

Elam Ray Swaim, Superintendent

September 19, 2005

MEMORANDUM

TO: Kim Carroll
Alabama Supercomputer Authority

FROM: Tommy Whitten
Technology Coordinator

RE: E-rate

We have taken advantage of the discounts allowed through the Erate program for the past five years to provide telecommunications services that allow Internet access to all of the twenty-four schools, 1,200 teachers, and 18,500 students in our district.

With the quality network that Erate allows us to purchase each year, our students are able to use the Alabama Virtual Library and other major educational databases for research that is appropriate for each grade level. The teachers also have the benefit of the APT Plus program that provides educational content complete with video streaming to enhance their students' learning experience. We would never be able to adequately use the APT Plus program without the quality network that Erate has made possible for our system.

The programs noted above are only the tip of the iceberg for all of the programs that our schools access via the Internet and the list of web-based programs that are available continue to grow. As our schools demand more and more access to the Internet to meet their instructional needs, our district will be pressed to continually increase the capabilities of our network in order to meet those needs. This makes the Erate critical in our ability to provide the network services that our educators and students need in the 21st Century environment.