

# TARRANT CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

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Sherlene McDonald  
Tarrant City Schools  
1318 Alabama Street  
Tarrant, Alabama 35217  
September 7, 2005

Kim Carroll  
Alabama Supercomputer Authority  
401 Adams Avenue, Suite 758  
Montgomery, Alabama 36130-9553

Dear Kim Carroll:

I am writing to express my appreciation for the E-Rate funding received by the Tarrant City School System. We have been able to maintain as well as enhance our technological services with these funds. The E-Rate money has helped to connect students, teachers, and administrators with technology advances in the following areas: telecommunication, e-mail, firewall, infrastructure, and equipment/supplies.

E-Rate funding has allowed our school system to stay connected via T-1 cables for communication, e-mail, firewall, and antivirus protection. One way we communicate with parents is through the system webpage. The webpage is an excellent way for parents to stay connected to the school. In addition, without the T-1 connection our staff would not be able to keep in contact with everyone in the school system on a daily basis. Through our e-mail system, teachers and administrators are able to communicate throughout the day without interrupting teaching. E-mail also allows teachers, administrators, and parents to communicate during the day, which virtually eliminates schedule conflicts. Since the T-1 cables connect all three of our schools, it is important that we provide firewall and antivirus protection on our computers in order to keep them running efficiently, which is possible by utilizing E-Rate funds.

We have also used E-Rate funding to purchase and up-date technology equipment for the benefit of teachers as well as students. This year alone E-Rate has been extremely helpful in purchasing 30 Dell computers for the Tarrant City School system. Tarrant Elementary School held a fundraiser to purchase new computers for their new computer lab. There was an agreement made that if the elementary school could raise the funds needed to purchase 12 computers, the board of education would purchase the additional 12 computers need to complete the new computer lab. Funds from E-Rate were instrumental

