

February 2, 2018

To whom it may concern:

The Glendale school district is located in a sparsely populated rural area, in the state of Oregon, with significantly high unemployment and poverty rates. Glendale school district has a total student population of approximately 300 students, who qualify at the 90% level, for the federal free and reduced lunch program. In recent years, the demand for internet bandwidth from the schools has increased to a point that traditional T1 lines, provided by local Telephone companies are insufficient. On most days, all the schools within the district are unable to take advantage of Internet resources due to lack of bandwidth. Furthermore, the lack of bandwidth keeps the students in the district from doing any online research during state testing, as the testing process is computerized and takes priority over other work that require Internet access.

Douglas Education Service District has worked with various telecom and data communications companies to provide higher capacity broadband access to Glendale for many years without success. Most of the service providers cite high cost with little return on investment as a barrier to bringing service to the Glendale area. Recently, Douglas FastNet, a local broadband provider has been willing to provide service to the Glendale schools via fiber optic lines. The cost to the school district would have been upwards of \$600,000, which would have taken a significant portion of the district's operating budget out of the classroom. The district takes part in the federal E-rate program that provides re-imbusement for internet access in schools and has been able to offset \$540,000 of the cost of the Fiber optic lines. Even with help from the E-rate program, the district would have had to find \$60,000 to pay the non re-imbursed amount of the build. A grant from the state of Oregon for \$30,000 was crucial in moving the project forward for the Glendale school district.

Sincerely



Asthika Welikala

Chief Information Officer