

RICHARD E. NEAL  
FIRST DISTRICT, MASSACHUSETTS

AT-LARGE WHIP



COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS  
RANKING MEMBER,  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON SELECT  
REVENUE MEASURES  
DEMOCRATIC LEADER,  
FRIENDS OF IRELAND CAUCUS

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 25, 2014

Received & Inspected

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FCC Mail Room

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Thomas Wheeler  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 Twelfth Street, SW, Room 8-C445  
Washington, DC 20554-0004

Dear Mr. Wheeler,

I am writing in behalf of Daniel Warwick, the Superintendent of Schools in Springfield, who has recently contacted my office for assistance. In late February, the Springfield Public Schools received word that the FCC had decided to not fund any Priority 2 applications for the 2013-2014 school year, in which the district had requested nearly \$4 million. This funding would have upgraded cabling and wireless in six of the largest schools, serving about 6,400 students, and continue to maintain infrastructures already in place.

Since the support and maintenance takes place throughout the year, the district begins incurring costs July 1<sup>st</sup> of the fiscal year. By the time the decision to not fund these projects occurred, the Springfield Public Schools had already used \$544,560. This late decision leaves the Springfield Public Schools with a large gap in their budget, with only four months left in the fiscal year. Nearly ninety percent of the students served by the district come from low income homes, and the schools have been proactive in providing technology to support the digital-age teaching and learning for the students, but without the funding to improve programs, this cannot be done.

Both myself, and the Springfield Public School District, would greatly appreciate any assistance you can provide for both the funding for basic maintenance for this school year and the understanding of the importance of helping Districts maintain networks that E-Rate has helped them install.

Sincerely,

Richard E. Neal  
Member of Congress

2208 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-5601

300 STATE STREET  
SUITE 200  
SPRINGFIELD, MA 01105  
(413) 785-0325

SILVIO O. CONTE FEDERAL BUILDING  
78 CENTER STREET  
PITTSFIELD, MA 01201  
(413) 442-0946