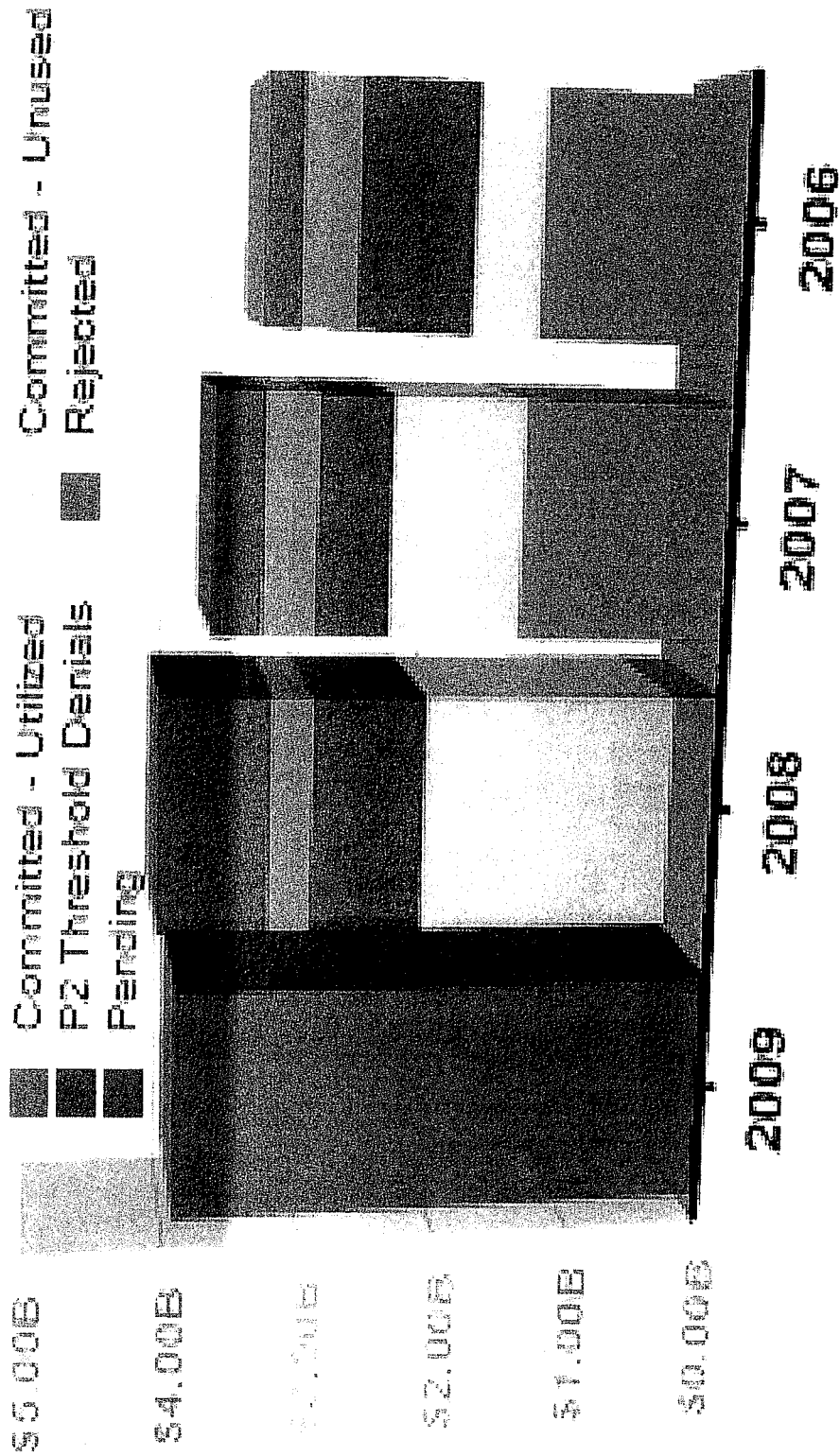


E-rate Summary





TEXAS EDUCATION AGENCY

1701 North Congress Ave. ★ Austin, Texas 78701-1494 ★ 512/463-9734 ★ FAX: 512/463-9838 ★ <http://www.tea.state.tx.us>

Robert Scott
Commissioner

November 13, 2008

Ms. Christine James
Universal Service Administrative Company
Schools and Libraries Division
2000 L Street, NW, Suite 200
Washington, D.C. 20036

RE: Texas Head Start Eligibility Clarification

Dear Ms. James:

The Texas Education Agency (TEA) is pleased to support the Texas Migrant Council (TMC) in its E-rate certification application. However, TEA has determined that the state's definition of "elementary school" or "secondary school" or "school" includes Head Start student populations only when the Head Start facility is a part of a school district. Only those programs, where a public school district is the fiscal agent of Head Start, are eligible to receive E-rate discounts based on the state's definition of elementary school.

The purpose of this communication is to also provide an explanation regarding the relationship between the TEA and TMC. With the passage of Senate Bill 23 in 2003, the Texas Legislature prioritized the expansion and the resource coordination capabilities among public school districts, Head Start and local child care providers to move forward a cohesive service school readiness model, the Texas Early Education Model (TEEM) to dramatically improve early reading, math and social development. Simultaneously, the Legislature also directed the State Center for Early Childhood Development to develop a quality rating system, the school readiness certification system (SRCS), for use in determining the effectiveness of early childhood care and education programs. Since the inception of TEEM, TMC has participated as a grantee of the Texas Early Education Model (TEEM) in partnership with several school districts with high need early age populations along the Texas-Mexico border. TEEM implementation involves web-based teacher training and professional development using research-based state approved prekindergarten learning systems in concert with a web-based quality rating system to certify that early childhood education programs are getting children ready for formal schooling. The SRCS informs parents, school administrators, public, statewide stakeholders, the early childhood education community and policy makers about

the quality of early childhood education programs in their communities and state. In the fall of 2008, approximately 200 TMC Head Start child care classrooms were certified as "School Ready", indicating that the quality of the prekindergarten program provided is effective in preparing four year olds for success in kindergarten.

Therefore the E-rate discounts approved by USAC will help TMC increase its ability to provide support to schools and libraries for telecommunications, Internet access and certain computer networking equipment for children and teaching personnel, especially in rural communities preparing to enter into the school ready certification system.

The TEA will continue to work collaboratively with TMC to accomplish the goals set forth by the Legislature and help promote coordination of services that aim to create a more responsive system of programs and services for our youngest children and their families.

Sincerely,



Lizzette Q. Gonzalez Reynolds
Deputy Commissioner
Statewide Policy and Programs

Attachment



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Robert Scott
Commissioner

July 11, 2008

Mr. Sal Cooper
Universal Service Administration Company
School and Libraries Program
P. O. Box 7026
Lawrence, KS 66044-7026

Re: Texas Migrant Council Application Number 575477 and 578381

Dear Mr. Cooper:

I am supporting Texas Migrant Council's application for funding for the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC). Texas Migrant Council, while being a stand-alone agency, is an important partner of the public school system.

The Texas Migrant Council (TMC) is a leader in the Texas' Early Education Initiatives. TMC's leadership has been crucial for early childhood for a number of years and for the benefit of children, teachers and parents in early childhood.

The Texas Migrant Council serves a high need population that is in great need of the services this grant can provide. The communities included in the grant application are sparse and rural with very limited resources. Please consider the Texas Education Agency's strong support of this program and application in your award deliberations.

Regards,

Lizzette Reynolds
Deputy Commissioner
Statewide Policy and Programs

LR/av