TO: Dr. Mary Wegner, Superintendent  
School Board Members  
FROM: Cassee Olin, Business Manager  
DATE: March 6, 2019  
RE: Award of Contract: E-Rate Internet Services

The Sitka School District posted their FFC Form 470 on the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) website on February 4, 2019. The Form 470 included only Internet Services. There were two vendors who responded to the Internet Services.

The selection committee was made up of Superintendent Dr. Mary Wegner, Business Manager Cassee Olin, and Director of Technology Ian Crane. The selection committee is recommending GCI School Access be awarded the Internet Services for a term of five years. The term of this contract will begin on July 1, 2019. The district asked for internet services of 150mbps up to 1gbps by 50 increment levels. The district would like to award the contract to GCI for 300mbps, this will allow the district to move up to 300mbps if the need should arise in the upcoming years. The district will continue with the 150mbps that will have a cost savings to the budget for FY20 of $4,250 for the year.

**Pertinent Information about E-Rate**

The district intends to apply for discounts for the E-Rate funding year commencing July 1, 2019 and subsequent funding years covered by the contracts. E-Rate funding has provided the basis for upgrading most district locations to Centrex telephones and increasing data network capacity at many locations. The solicitation and the recommended awards are intended to meet the objectives of the Universal Service E-Rate Program and are in accordance with the district’s Instructional Technology Plan in the areas of voice communications, networking, and Internet access.

Funding for Universal Service discounts comes from the telecommunications industry in the form of a billing surcharge that each business and consumer pays on their monthly phone bill. The level of discounts schools and libraries are eligible to receive depends on economic need and location. The district pays the full cost of the service to the providers. Application is then made to the Schools and Libraries Division of the Universal Service Administrative Company for reimbursement to the district which is recognized as revenue.

“Sitka Schools: Discovering potential, nurturing growth, and inspiring lifelong curiosity.”