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Duval County Public Schools
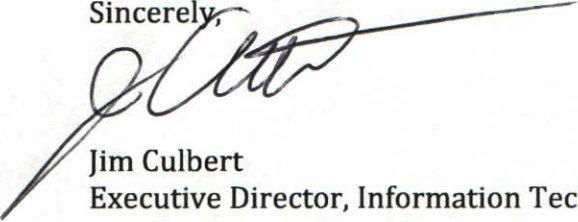
To Whom it May Concern:

Re: Proceeding # 02-6

Today's students are social learners and it is our responsibility to prepare our students to be successful in today's world. To accomplish that goal, it is necessary to provide our students and teachers with digital communication/collaboration tools in a safe environment which will allow them to communicate in a professional manner by engaging them with technology and helping them learn the skills they need to be successful. Gaggle was chosen to meet these needs.

Our district chose Gaggle through a process following E-rate program rules. Gaggle was selected because it provides the platform that allows teachers and students to embrace the benefits of social learning in a safe and controlled environment using tools that engage students, support diversity, and develop communities that encourage dialogue and the sharing of ideas and events. Also, Gaggle is both CIPA and COPPA compliant while other open source products that are available are not.

Gaggle provides a safe collection of instructional communication and collaboration tools for students, teachers, and staff, which includes email, digital lockers, assignment drop boxes, blogs, and calendars. Gaggle allows teachers to use professional technology to communicate with their students, organize their classes, and maximize instructional time and engagement. Without E-rate funding, our district will not be able to provide this valuable resource to student and teachers.

In conclusion, I request that the FCC continue to include Gaggle as an eligible product so that our district can continue to provide our students with the resources that are necessary to prepare them for success in a global economy.

Sincerely,

Jim Culbert
Executive Director, Information Technology
Duval County Public Schools