John Orbaugh, Executive Director of Technology   July 25, 2013
903-262-1085

To Whom It May Concern:

Re: Proceeding # 02-6

The goal of today's schools is at its core is to teach our students how to understand the world around them. To that end they need to know how to analyze data, think, speak, write and act in ways that offer them the greatest opportunity to be successful and productive citizens to their benefit, the benefit of our nation and the world beyond our borders. The National Education Technology Plan (NETP) states, *"Whether the domain is English language arts, mathematics, sciences, social studies, history, art, or music, 21st-century competencies and such expertise as critical thinking, complex problem solving, collaboration, and multimedia communication should be woven into all content areas. These competencies are necessary to become expert learners, which we all must be if we are to adapt to our rapidly changing world over the course of our lives."* In order for schools to reach this ultimate goal we must be able to provide the right tools for our students and teachers. These tools must ensure a safe and nurturing environment while at the same time meeting the continuing demands of a diminishing budget.

One of the ways that our district is meeting both the student and budget demands is by using the tools offered to us by Gaggle. Gaggle provides our students collaboration tools that meet the first goal outlined in the NETP:

> *1.0 Learning: Engage and Empower - All learners will have engaging and empowering learning experiences both in and out of school that prepare them to be active, creative, knowledgeable, and ethical participants in our globally networked society.*
>> *1.1 States should continue to revise, create, and implement standards and learning objectives using technology for all content areas that reflect 21st-century expertise and the power of technology to improve learning.*
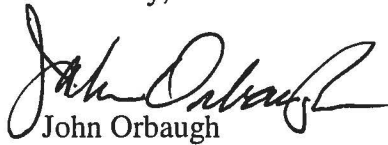
Gaggle's collaboration tools fully measure up to the aim of the NETP. Gaggle's products give our students the opportunity to collaborate, express their ideas and seek help from

their teachers in a way that was not afforded them in the traditional classroom setting. Further, Gaggle's products allow us to open these opportunities for learning in a safe and secure manner through their combination and electronic and human monitoring. The safety measures in Gaggle's products meet the federal CIPA and COPPA requirements where open source Web 2.0 tools do not.

Our district chose Gaggle through an RFP process following the E-rate program rules. Following that process Gaggle was selected because they offered us the best of breed programs for our students at the best price. E-rate funding was critical to our ability to provide these 21st Century centered learning experiences for our students. The loss of this funding would put this program out of our reach.

Therefore, I respectfully request that the FCC maintain the Gaggle's programs as and eligible products. Our students need and deserve the educational opportunities these programs provide. Our district needs and deserves your support in meeting the goals set out in the National Education Technology Plan and the requirements of CIPA and COPPA.

Sincerely,

John Orbaugh
Executive Director of Technology
Tyler Independent School District