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October 15, 2021

Mr. Garrey Curry, Jr.
Rappahannock County Administrator
PO Box 519
Washington, VA 22747

Dear Mr. Curry,

This letter is to reiterate the RCPS School Board's and Administration's commitment to support the county in moving forward with a *fiber to the home* approach to improving county broadband infrastructure. This is a necessary step in providing essential resources and services to county residents, especially important for families with school-aged children.

As you well know, the current landscape of providing a quality education amidst the COVID-19 pandemic is very challenging in a rural county with very limited internet access. In fact, only one third of RCPS families have "reliable" internet at home, making access to learning during periodic closures or required quarantines due to the pandemic an added barrier. These challenges have inspired RCPS teachers and staff to become very creative in delivery of instruction modalities, creating a more blended learning environment that will undoubtedly carry on in the future, even post-pandemic.

Therefore, the RCPS School Board and Administration are grateful for the Rappahannock County Broadband Authority and Board of Supervisors' attention to this very important issue. In support of these efforts, the RCPS School Board voted on its Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) III plan on August 10th, allocating funds in support of *fiber to the home* for eligible families with school-aged children. These funds, up to \$370,000 after other funding options have been explored, may be used toward securing the infrastructure necessary to bring fiber to families with school-aged children as part of the county's contribution detailed in the VATI application.

Thank you so much for your support of this very important initiative.

Sincerely,

Shannon Grimsley
Superintendent / Cheerleader in Chief

John Wesley Mills
School Board Chairman