

## SLD's "Resource Deficiency Advisory" Notices

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Some of you may be getting a notice from the SLD entitled **SLD's "Resource Deficiency Advisory" Notices**. If so, the commentary published from E-Rate Central is a good explanation of what the memo means.....

### SLD's "Resource Deficiency Advisory" Notices

Until recently, as far as applicants were concerned, Selective Reviews (also known as Item 25 reviews) were graded on a "pass/fail" basis. If you "passed," your application was funded; if you "failed," your application was denied.

What this dichotomy did not show, however, was the gradations that the SLD was applying to Selective Reviews. Often, due the subjectivity of the "necessary resources" tests, the SLD may have become convinced that an applicant rated far less than an "A+," but that its score was above a failing grade.

One result of such a finding is that the applicant was funded for that year, but might be marked for a follow up review in a subsequent year. An applicant, not knowing of the potential problem, was often shocked and dismayed to have passed a Selective Review one year only to be hit with another the next.

Recently, certain applicants have begun receiving "Resource Deficiency Advisory" ("RDA") letters warning them of SLD concerns that should be addressed. In part, the letters read:

"As a result of our Item 25 review, we have noted deficiencies in some areas of resources necessary to use the requested services effectively. Now that you have been informed of these deficiencies, we would expect to see increased resources devoted to these areas during future reviews. Continued scarcity of these resources could jeopardize your funding in future years."

The letters then go on to list, specific to each applicant, the one or two areas - computers, training, software, maintenance, and/or electrical connections - in which the SLD considered the applicants to be deficient.

We view these letters as a practical and welcome response to a complicated program requirement and review problem. Applicants receiving RDAs should breathe a sigh of relief that they have funded this year, but should make every effort to address and document the deficient resource areas noted in future funding years.