



TN DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TECHNOLOGY GRANT FOR REMOTE LEARNING FAQ

The Department of Education is releasing a \$50M grant for technology purchases. This grant is a reimbursement-based program to support districts in implementing their Continuous Learning Plans (CLPs) and other 1:1 technology programs. The grant is focused on a 3rd – 12th grade matching program, with any remaining funds prioritized for earlier grades and district connectivity. Districts will have the choice of which devices to purchase, but the reimbursement rate is set at the lowest relative negotiated rate available to the state; districts may purchase from those rates or on their own. All purchase orders must be dated between March 1, 2020 and September 1, 2020. To support district assurances in reimbursements, the department is able to reimburse districts \$200 for every three devices purchased for every 3rd – 12th grade public school student in the state, and will guarantee that for all participating districts within the 2:1 match rate.

1) Is this grant reimbursement based?

Yes. Districts will file for reimbursement in ePlan, as with other grants issued by the department.

2) What is the match requirement?

The Department of Education will reimburse districts \$200 for every three devices purchased. (This is equivalent to a 2:1 match program, based on relative negotiated rates. The state funds purchase of a third device for every two purchased by the district.) Depending on participation, more reimbursement funds may be available.

3) Is the match based on money spent or devices purchased?

The match is based on devices purchased. Districts may select the devices at a local level or purchase off statewide agreements, but the dollar amount is set to \$200 per every three devices. The purpose of the program is for student device coverage.

4) Can the district purchase any device to qualify for this program?

Yes, the district may purchase any device (i.e., laptop or tablet) to be used for remote instruction, provided it meets the needs outlined in the district's Continuous Learning Plan (CLP). The match rate is set at an amount aligned to relative negotiated rates.

5) Are devices purchased with federal or state/local funds eligible?

Only devices purchased with state/local funds are eligible for reimbursement. However, you may amend existing grant applications accordingly, given this new opportunity. Second, you

may purchase the two district-supported devices with federal funds as long as the third device covered in this grant was purchased with state/local funds initially.

6) What is the deadline?

Intent to participate forms are due August 1, 2020. Submitting these forms is not a requirement to receive the grant and does not bind the district to participating. It allows the department to better plan and communicate expected grant award amounts. Grant applications are due September 1, 2020.

7) Is there a maximum number of devices I can purchase?

No, but the department will award grants to prioritize device purchases for 3rd – 12th grade students in alignment with districts' average daily membership (ADM). If additional funds are available to cover other grades or technology needs, the department will allocate those funds in the same manner.

8) Does this only apply to laptop or tablet purchases?

The primary purpose of this grant is to support individual device use for student instruction. Should additional funds be available, the application will also ask for information related to connectivity and other device needs for grades K-2. Those funds would be allocated in the same manner.

9) What information will be required in the application?

The application will only ask for information about ADM per grade, purchase amounts per grade, documentation of purchase orders, and related operational questions. The department will reference your CLP to determine the district or charter school's strategy for implementation.

10) What is the reimbursement amount?

The Department of Education will reimburse districts \$200 for every three devices purchased. (This is equivalent to a 2:1 match program, based on relative negotiated rates. The state funds purchase of a third device for every two purchased by the district.)

11) Are public charter schools eligible?

Yes. Public charter schools may apply for funds directly from the state, aligned with their CLPs.

12) What if the district already made a purchase?

Any purchase made on or after March 1, 2020 is eligible for reimbursement. This is based on the federal allowable uses of the funds.

13) How do I apply?

Applications will be available in ePlan. The department will provide the application opening date in the weekly superintendent correspondence, on social media, and during the three times per week superintendent calls.

14) Who is my point of contact with questions?

Questions related to the grant program can be directed to the district technology team at the department: district.technology@tn.gov.