



TN DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TECHNOLOGY GRANT FOR REMOTE LEARNING FAQ

(Extension Notes Updated 9/3/2020)

The Department of Education is releasing \$50M for technology purchases in all grades 3-12. The department is also collecting information on K-2 device purchases to release additional awards should funding be available. This grant is a reimbursement-based program to support districts in implementing their Continuous Learning Plans (CLPs). The department aims to award all \$50M to districts that apply.

All purchase orders must be dated between March 1, 2020 and September 15, 2020. All funds must be liquidated by November 30, 2020. To support district assurances in reimbursements, the department is estimating it will reimburse districts \$200 for every three devices purchased for every K– 12 public school student in the state.

1) Is this grant reimbursement based?

Yes. However, this grant will be reimbursed using bulk load reimbursements.

2) What is the match requirement?

The Department of Education will initially 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 currently set to \$200 per every three devices. The purpose of the program is to support student devices for instruction.

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.

Ex. 1. District buys three computers with state/local funds. Would one of the three be eligible for reimbursement under the technology grant? **Yes!**

Ex.2 . District uses their ESSER / CARES act funds (or other federal funds) to purchase two devices, and then purchases the third with state or local funds. Would the third (purchased with state or local funds) be eligible for reimbursement under the technology grant? **Yes!**

Ex. 3. District buys two devices with the LEA Reopening & Programmatic Supports grant and one with state/local funds. Would the third (purchased with state or local funds) be eligible for reimbursement under the technology grant? **Yes!**

Ex. 4. District buys all three computers with ESSER/CARES Act funds. Would one of the three be eligible for reimbursement under the technology grant? **No; however, the district may amend their ESSER/CARES Act application to buy the third device with state/local funds and then use the technology grant for reimbursement of the third device.**

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 15, 2020. Device invoices must be uploaded by November 30, 2020.

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

No, but the department will award grants to prioritize device purchases for K– 12 students in alignment with districts’ average daily membership (ADM).

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.

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.)

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) What happens if there are additional funds available?

In the case that district applications for devices at the 2:1 device ratio and \$200 reimbursement rate do not award all available funds, the department reserves the ability to adjust either the ratio or the reimbursement rate.

15) 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.

