

Frequently Asked Questions

Regarding Technology RFP #813

June 5, 2015//Revised 9/23/2015

#	Question	Answer
1	What is the purpose of the RFP?	Grantees are to use the money to improve technological infrastructure and/or to procure devices for the public schools to achieve specified educational aims.
2	Where can I access the RFP?	http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/cwp/view.asp?a=2683&Q=320346 Under the ACADEMIC OFFICE heading.
3	Who can apply for funding?	Local Education Agencies (ELAs) in Connecticut. A complete list is available in Appendix C of the RFP.
4	How much total money is available?	Ten million dollars.
5	Is there a maximum dollar cap for any LEA to request?	Yes. LEAs listed in Appendix C can request a maximum of \$22.00 per student. The total student population is based on the official October 2014 count as reported in the Public School Information System (PSIS) and is recorded in Appendix C of the RFP.
6	Is there a minimum dollar amount that an LEA can request?	Yes. The minimum amount that any listed LEA should request is ten thousand dollars.
7	If an LEA has a student population of less than 455 total students, can they apply for funding under this grant?	Yes. In a case where the \$22.00 per student formula would yield less than ten thousand dollars for any LEA listed in Appendix C, that LEA can apply for exactly ten thousand dollars. Do not make a request for less than ten thousand dollars. Ten thousand is the minimum threshold for this grant.
8	Can a listed LEA apply more than once? For example, can a district apply separately for projects in different schools?	No. The state will accept no more than one application under this grant from any individual LEA listed in Appendix C.
9	What is the deadline for application to be received by the state?	Applications are due by July 17, 2015, by 3 p.m. Late submissions will NOT be considered for funding.
10	Are applicants required to turn in <i>both</i> electronic and hard copies of the grant application?	Yes. An electronic copy must be submitted via email as well as four hard copies. One of these hard copies must have original signatures. Email, mailing and delivery addresses can be found on page 3 of the RFP.
11	Is this a matching grant?	No. While districts may use granted money in conjunction with other revenue to complete technology projects, there is no <i>requirement</i> to match this money with other funds.

12	What are all the needed component parts to this grant application? Is there a rubric or checklist?	Appendix B (p. 14) of this grant is a one-page summary of all that is required to successfully apply for this grant. Failure to provide ANY listed component will result in no award for that application.
13	There is an ED 114 Budget Form included in this grant. It lists Accounting Classification numbers. What are those numbers?	Numbers for the following categories have not yet been officially assigned. Applications may be submitted without these numbers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accounting Classification • Fund • SPID • Budget Reference • Program • Chartfield 1 • Chartfield 2 Applications that leave these fields blank will still be acceptable.
14	Is there a way to fill this application out electronically instead of printing a copy and filling it out manually?	Yes. From the CSDE RFP URL... http://www.ct.gov/sde/rfp Under the ACADEMIC OFFICE heading for RFP 813 there is a link called fillable form . This will bring applicants to a version of the RFP with key pages that can be filled out electronically.
15	Do I need my local School Board to sign an approval form for this application?	No. Since this grant does not require matching funds from the district, LEA's may apply without signed approval from the local school board.
16	Who will review these grant applications	The applications will be reviewed by CSDE staff. Staff will check to be sure that each application is complete and each application will be judged for acceptability according to the requirements laid out in the RFP and summarized in Appendix B (p. 14).
17	When will districts receive money from this grant?	REVISED 12/04/2015 –Disbursements are now tentatively planned to begin during February . However, the recommendations for grantees will need to go before the January State Bond Commission for approval first. Grants are not final until the award letter is executed.
18	Can the money be used to purchase devices that are not computers or laptops?	Yes. There is no narrow definition of “device” in this grant. These decisions should be based on local needs. The important thing, however, is to justify these purchases in terms of their supporting both the teaching of the Connecticut Core Standards, and enhancing the ability of the district to administer state mandated student assessments.
19	Can the LEA lease equipment under this grant?	No. Bonded money is geared exclusively toward capital acquisitions.
20	What if an outside contractor is needed in order to install additional bandwidth? Is it allowable to pay that contractor with money from this grant award?	Yes. Bond funds such as these are meant for capital expenditures, however there may be necessary labor costs in order for installation. If it is necessary to have a skilled technician perform an installation, the costs for hiring that contractor can be listed in budget line 340 “Other Professional Services.” However, if the contractor’s labor costs are difficult to disentangle from the device costs, then the entire contractor’s bill can fall under category 734 “Technology Related Hardware.”

21	If a district is bidding a complex project in early summer 2015 and paying a large portion with existing district funds, is that district allowed to use the grant funds in September to pay for work that occurred earlier in the summer?	No. This money cannot be used to reimburse expenses already incurred. Instead it must be used for new acquisitions. Districts involved in large, multi-phase projects can apply these funds only to those portions of the work that occur after funding is received. Funding is expected in September, however, grants are not final until an award letter is executed.
22	There is now potential that state laws around student assessment will change. What effect will these changes have on the acceptability of grant applications for this grant?	None. The parameters by which these grant applications will be judged have already been set. In all likelihood, improvements in computer infrastructure and electronic devices will have a beneficial impact no matter which tests the state will require of its students in future years.
23	In the event that the TOTAL granted amount statewide exceeds the amount of funds available, what will the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) do?	The CSDE reserves the right to reduce proportionally each awarded district's allocation (not to be reduced below the \$10,000 minimum threshold) until such time as the total of all awards are within the total amount available.
24	How can I get more information not covered in this FAQ?	Please communicate any additional questions to: abe.krisst@ct.gov (860)713-6894