The **Digital Connections** Partnership Schools Grant
AGENDA

3:00-3:15 – Overview of grant program
3:15-3:30 – Local match, process, timeline
3:30-3:45 – Required forms and narrative
3:45-4:00 – Required technical information
4:00-4:30 – Questions?
YOUR HOSTS

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PURPOSE

The purpose of this competitive, matching state grant program is to assist public school districts in improving student instruction and assessment through the use of information technology, including, but not limited to, enhanced information technology infrastructure (Wi-Fi) and increased broadband access.
Why is this a good opportunity?

• It can enhance learning, engage students, and help them prepare for college and careers.

• The local match can help advance existing projects.

• The grant alleviates the district burden, since the state will front the costs.

• It can jump-start efforts to establish a budget line for replenishing and sustaining devices.

• It can encourage your district to promote innovation by advancing 1-1 initiatives.
PRIORITIES

• Maximize the access of broadband and improve the efficiency and productivity of education through the use of technology.

• Provide student access to individualized and rigorous digital learning experiences

• Ensure that educators and administrators have the knowledge and skills to develop and implement digital learning curricula

• Maximize taxpayer value, student access to information technology and information technology preparedness.
ELIGIBILITY

- All public school districts in the Commonwealth are eligible for funding.

- Funds cannot be awarded to school buildings scheduled for decommissioning or razing within 10 years from the completion of the project.

- Projects may only occur on and within publicly-owned real property maintained for the benefit of the school district.
FUNDING

• $5 million in matching state bond funds will be available to urban, suburban, and rural communities.
  • $2,000,000 for suburban communities
  • $1,000,000 for rural communities
  • $2,000,000 for urban communities

• Cities and towns will be required to contribute between 30% and 70% based on their local contribution to the Chapter 70 formula.
FUNDING EXAMPLES

• Urban district eligible for 50% required local match
  • Could propose a project that cost $4 million
  • State would pay $2 million
  • District would pay $2 million

• Suburban district with $100,000 to spend and a 40% required local match
  • Divide local funds available by local match % to get maximum cost = $250,000
  • State would pay $150,000
  • District would pay $100,000
FUND USE

• State bond funds may be used to fund capital projects that provide high-speed broadband and/or wireless Internet connectivity for schools.

• Up to 100% of the local contribution (between 30% and 70% of the total cost of the project) may fund devices, PD, and AT, provided that the district has a sound plan for incorporating recurring costs into its operating budget.

• State bond funds may not be used retroactively or for devices.

• All devices for students purchased through the local match must meet current PARCC specifications, regardless of the district’s current plans to participate in online statewide assessments.
MAXIMIZING TAXPAYER VALUE, STUDENT ACCESS TO
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
PREPAREDNESS

- Integrated projects
- Unserved or underserved areas of the state
- CoSN / METAA certification
- E-rate
COMMITMENT TO PROVIDE STUDENT ACCESS TO INDIVIDUALIZED AND RIGOROUS DIGITAL LEARNING EXPERIENCES

- Definition of the problem to be solved
- Scale of model
- Integration of online and F2F learning
- Sustainability
COMMITMENT TO ENSURING THAT EDUCATORS AND ADMINISTRATORS HAVE THE KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS TO IMPLEMENT DIGITAL LEARNING CURRICULA

- Initial training
- Ongoing support
- Alignment to MA Standards for Professional Development
The Digital Connections Partnership Schools Grant

TIMELINE

• Nov. 17, 2014 Proposals due to ESE
• Mid- Dec. 2014 Finalists announced
• Dec.- Jan 2015 Finalists obtain bids
• Jan. 2015 Finalists apply for E-rate
• Summer 2015 Construction begins

Massachusetts Department of Elementary & Secondary Education
MassIT

DOE.mass.edu/ODL
FOR MORE INFORMATION

Additional details will be posted as they become available
http://www.doe.mass.edu/odl/grants/DigitalConnections.html

FAQ will be posted on grants page in the next week or so.

Write to odl@doe.mass.edu

Call Andréa Kupps, 781-338-3256