



Device and Connectivity Update
State Board of Education

September 8, 2020

Device and connectivity gaps were noted in the homes of students and teachers when we moved to learning at a distance in spring 2020.

Device and Connectivity

Key findings from the Michigan Education Technology Leaders (METL) survey reported in mid-April 2020 include:

- 90% (1,305,748) of Michigan students were represented in the survey results.
- 71% (923,396) of Michigan students reported some kind of device at home to use for school.
- 73% (954,716) of Michigan students had internet access that can support some form of learning at a distance.

Device and Connectivity

From April 15, 2020 - August 18, 2020

Almost 300,000 mobile devices (Chromebooks and Windows laptop computers) have been purchased through the REMC SAVE program by school districts across the state.

An additional device purchasing option has recently been offered to school districts from the Governor's office.

- 30,000 HP Chromebook laptops with various service options are available for purchase and delivery to districts.

Local example – Van Buren ISD (VBISD) partnered with a vendor to provide and install parking lot WiFi access points (AP) in 18 locations within the county. The vendor installed the AP's at nine of the district libraries within the county and staff installed nine AP's at the following schools and local locations:

- Lawrence High School
- Paw Paw Middle School
- Lawton Middle School
- Bloomingdale High School
- Pullman Elementary
- Hartford Middle School
- Bangor Middle School
- VBISD Conference Center
- Freshwater Church - Paw Paw

Local Example

Available funding sources for local educational agencies (both traditional and charter) to address coronavirus response efforts

Device and Connectivity



Grant Structure – Formula

Eligible Applicants – LEAs (traditional and charter)

Funds Available – \$350,817,286

Expenditure Period – 3/13/2020 to 9/30/21

Allowable Expenditure Categories – 12 categories (including digital divide)

All LEAs that receive Title I funding

Elementary and Secondary
Schools Emergency Relief (ESSER)
– Formula

Grant Structure – Competitive

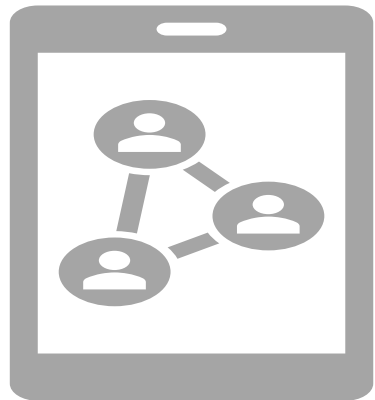
Eligible Applicants – LEAs (traditional and charter)

Funds Available – \$37,030,554

Expenditure Period – 3/13/2020 to 9/30/21

Allowable Expenditure Categories – 2 (digital divide and children’s mental health)

LEAs with high percentages of economically disadvantaged students, English learners, and students with disabilities.



Elementary and Secondary Schools
Emergency Relief (ESSER)
– Education Equity

Grant Structure – Formula

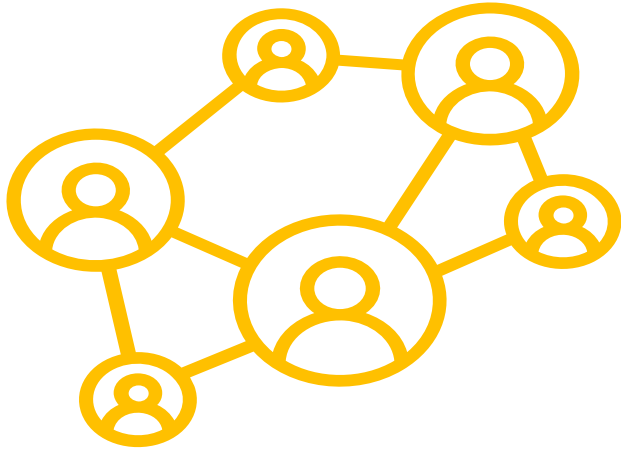
Eligible Applicants – LEAs, ISDs and other education entities

Funds Available – \$65,400,000

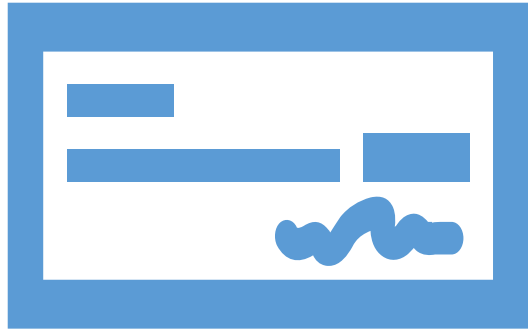
Expenditure Period – 3/13/20 to 9/30/21

Allowable Expenditure Categories – Seven categories (including digital divide), plus designated remote learning support activities

Targets LEAs (traditional and charter) with more than 50% of students economically disadvantaged



Governor's Education Emergency Relief Fund (GEER)



\$25M for the MAISA's Device Purchasing and Digital Learning

Coronavirus Relief Funds (CRF)
P.A. 123 of 2020

Foundations and philanthropic organizations have provided device support to Detroit Public Schools Community District and have expressed an interest to partner with districts across the state. They are looking for partner opportunities to support strategic long-term investments.

Foundation/Philanthropic
Update

Non-Financial Michigan Department of Education (MDE) Supports

- MDE COVID-19 online instructional resources
- Guidance memos to the field
 - REMC SAVE Offering Discounted Personal Protective Equipment to all Michigan Intermediate School Districts and Schools
 - MI Safe Schools Roadmap - Best Practices for Quality Learning at a Distance
 - MI Safe Schools: Michigan's 2020-21 Return to School Roadmap - Technology Guidance

MDE Supports for School Districts

MDE is partnering with Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) to provide an effective way to support data collection on devices and connectivity for students at home.

1. Establish common data elements
2. Communicate guidance to local educational agencies (LEAs) on data collection strategies
3. Recommend data management best practices

Data Collection Approach Overview

By collecting the following information about every student, Michigan will be able to identify:

- The number of students who have a dedicated device at home
- The number of students who have internet connectivity at home, and if that connectivity is sufficient for high quality online learning

Ongoing Connectivity Challenges

Connected Nation Michigan (CNMI) identifies four primary challenges.

- 1) Availability: Rural areas lack the internet connectivity necessary to participate in online educational activities.
- 2) Affordability: Households with internet service available to them may struggle to afford the monthly cost of service or the initial installation cost of connecting to an existing network.
- 3) Devices: Some households do not have an adequate number or type of internet-enabled devices to allow their students to learn from home.
- 4) Training: Ensuring new broadband adopters have access to online training.

Ongoing Connectivity Strategies

MDE was recently invited to participate on the Connecting Michigan Taskforce (CMIT), created by the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) and Connected Nation Michigan. CMIT will advise and assist in improving coordination among stakeholders in addressing the state's broadband challenges.

Connectivity Issues/Solutions

The purpose of the Connecting Michigan Taskforce is to:

1. Act in an advisory capacity to the state of Michigan;
2. Support, advise, and coordinate with local, regional, and state agencies in working with the private sector to increase broadband access and adoption in Michigan;
3. Assist with broadband and technology-related coordination in response to the COVID-19 emergency;
4. Measure and review the 2018 Michigan Broadband Roadmap for needed updates and improvement opportunities and implement the recommendations of the roadmap, where prudent;

The purpose of the Connecting Michigan Taskforce is to:

5. Recommend policy changes to improve broadband access and adoption in the state;
6. Help to identify, leverage, and establish funding sources and opportunities to entice investors to provide affordable broadband access to households and businesses statewide; and
7. Monitor federal broadband-related activities for policies and funding opportunities that will impact broadband in Michigan and actively provide unified comment, context, and perspective to agencies and initiatives on the impacts of federal actions on the state.

Thank you!

Questions?

Thank you/Questions

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Thank you