



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING


GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL F. RICE, Ph.D.
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 27, 2020

TO: Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents
Public School Academy Directors

FROM: Venessa A. Keesler, Ph.D., Deputy Superintendent 
Division of Educator, Student, and School Support

SUBJECT: Flexibility in Title Funds for Technology

During the extraordinary circumstances in Michigan, and given Governor Whitmer's Executive Orders 2020-5 and 2020-21, which will keep K-12 schools closed through April 13, 2020, the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) is providing increased flexibility to local educational agencies (LEAs) regarding the use of federal funds. This flexibility is possible through waivers received from the U.S. Department of Education. This memo describes additional opportunities for the use of federal title funds to support instruction through technology.

Title I Funds

- Title I funds may be used to purchase Hot Spots and other internet access tools for students (new flexibility).
- Title I funds may be used to purchase devices for teacher use to support student learning (new flexibility).
- Title I funds may be used for the purchase of student devices (computers, iPads, tablets) and other related materials (continued allowability).

Title IIA Funds

- Title IIA funds may be used to support trainings for educators to help them learn how to deliver instruction and connect with students virtually (continued allowability).
- Title IIA funds may be used to support professional development opportunities delivered virtually to support goals identified in district improvement plans (continued allowability).
- Title IIA funds may be used to purchase devices needed to support the teacher trainings (continued allowability).

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- Title IIA funds may be carried over at 100% but should not exceed the district's next academic year's Title IIA allocation (continued allowability).
- Title IIA funds may be transferred into Title IV to support learning using technology (continued allowability).

Title IV Funds

- Title IV well-rounded education opportunities may be expanded to support technology, which includes devices, access, and materials for students and teachers (continued allowability).
- Title IV safe and healthy learning opportunities may be supported through technology (new flexibility). This new flexibility allows districts to purchase more than the 15% limit normally applied for technology.

If you are unsure if an expenditure fits into one of these categories, please contact Fred Williams, Regional Support Unit Manager, at WilliamsF3@michigan.gov.

Reporting

- Districts will **not** need to receive prior approval for the purchase of technology supports during this period of emergency. Districts should e-mail their regional consultant to inform him/her of the changes. All changes and approvals must be noted for future audit purposes.
- Additional budget amendments **will** be allowed for an extended period. Changes to local budgets will need to be made when those amendments occur, in order to reflect the actual expenditures.

Congress is currently debating a relief bill that may include additional Title funds. If that is successful, MDE will communicate about additional funds. It is important to note that this memo pertains to flexibility to use *current* district allocations.

MDE will provide additional information and updates as they become available. If you have questions, please contact Fred Williams, Regional Support Unit Manager, at WilliamsF3@michigan.gov.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance