



## Connections for Classrooms

### *Round 5*

A Grant for Rural, High-Need Districts to Invest in Networks or Devices to Enable Digital Learning

# Application Planning Document

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*Application Planning Document*

Applications for Connections for Classrooms – Round 5 are submitted online through the following link: <https://fs3.formsite.com/GOSAGHP/form71/index.html?1505415935900>

Instructions for competing the application are found in the Connections for Classrooms – Round 5 “Grant Application Instructions & Program Procedures” document found on the Connections for Classrooms website at <https://gosa.georgia.gov/2017-cfc-program-information>.

Completed applications will be scored using the following point breakdown. The full rubric is available on the Round 5 website.

<b>Scoring Rubric Points Possible by Application Section</b>	
Section 1: Applicant Information	0
Section 2: Grant Funding Request Amounts	0
Section 3: Description of Network/Device Inventory and Statement of Need	20
Section 4: Equipment Selection/Deployment/Maintenance Plans	15
Section 5: Incremental Investment Tie-In	10
Section 6: Digital Learning Plans	35
Section 7: Instructional Staff Readiness Plans	20
Section 8: Binding Authority and Assurances	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>

## Connections for Classrooms Round 5 Grant Application Questions

The following questions must be answered to submit a Round 5 application. Completing them in this document will facilitate your application planning and ensure an easy online application experience.

\* Required Information

### Section 1: Applicant Information

Applicant Type\*:

- School District
- Local Charter School
- State Charter School
- State School

Local Education Agency (LEA) ID number and name\*:

*(only visible for schools)* School ID Number and Name\*:

Application Contact 1

Name\*

Title

Phone\*

Email\*

Application Contact 2

Name\*

Title

Phone\*

Email\*

## Section 2: Grant Funding Request

Has your district/school applied for E-Rate Category 2 funding in a prior funding cycle? (check all that apply)

- FY 2015  
 FY 2016  
 FY 2017  
 No, my district/school has not previously applied for Category 2 funding.

Has your district/school fully utilized its E-Rate Category 2 budget for this cycle?

- Yes       No

Does your district/school plan to upgrade its network infrastructure within the next two years?

- Yes       No

For which priority area are you applying in Round 5? (Only select one option)

**Priority 1:** Funding for local match of school network infrastructure costs in FY2018 E-Rate funding cycle

**Priority 2:** School or district network infrastructure that is Category 2 E-Rate eligible but for which our district/school no longer has remaining Category 2 eligibility. Please note that this priority area requires that your district/school has previously applied for E-Rate Category 2 in 2015, 2016, or 2017 and meets one of the following criteria:

- Total remaining E-Rate Category 2 eligible funds for this funding cycle (inclusive of federal E-Rate funds and local match) for the district are less than the maximum of Priority 2 eligibility (\$50/student) for the district as a whole, or
- Total remaining E-Rate Category 2 eligible funds for this funding cycle (inclusive of federal E-Rate funds and local match) for the schools in which Priority 2 network investment is planned less than maximum of Priority 2 eligibility (\$50/student) for the district as a whole.

**Priority 3:** Digital devices. To be eligible, districts must have utilized all Category 2 E-Rate eligibility or can commit in writing that no E-Rate eligible network upgrades will be done over the next two years. See Grant Guidelines document for list of eligible equipment.

*If Priority 1:*

Requested Funding for E-Rate Category 2 Local Match\*:

*If Priority 2:*

Requested Funding (Note that it cannot exceed \$50 per student in the district/school)\*:

*If Priority 3:*

Requested Funding (Note that it cannot exceed \$50 per student in the district/school)\*:

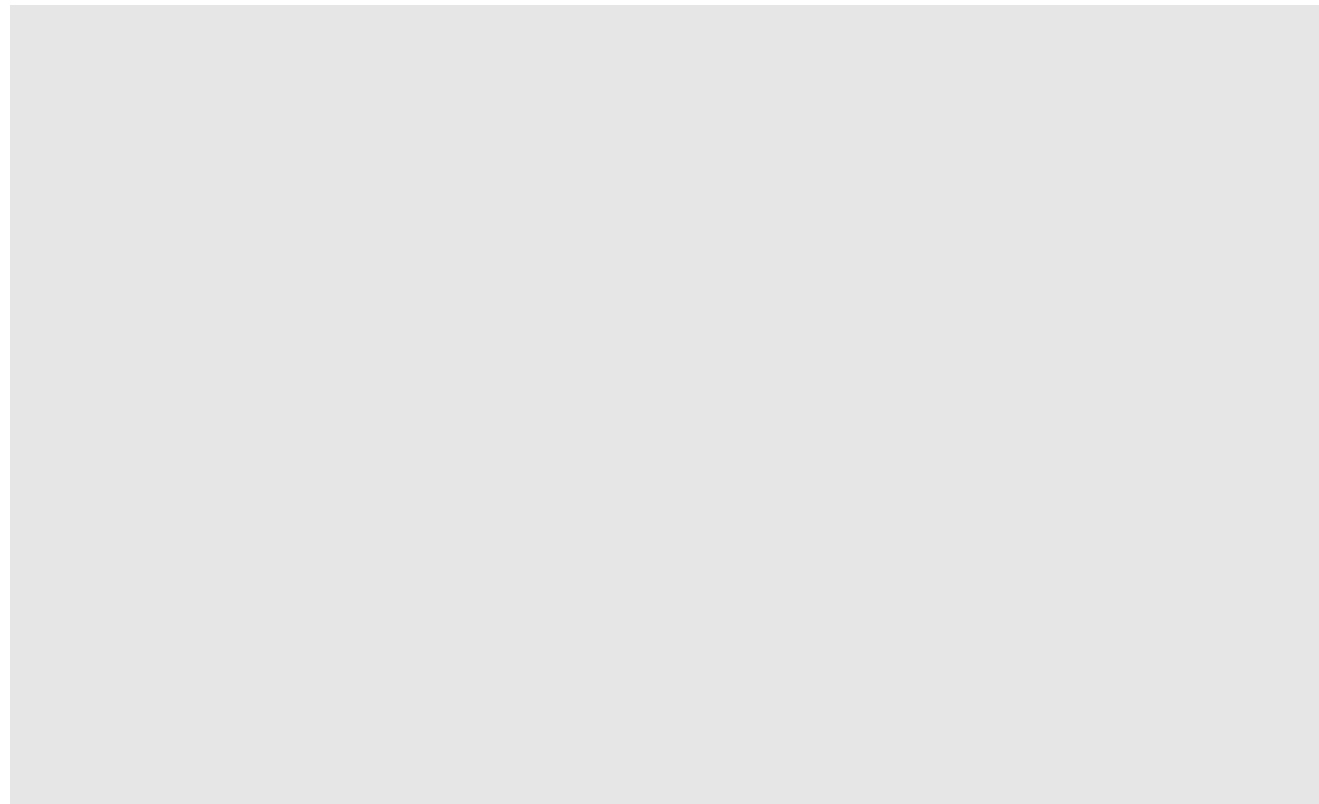
Expected Number of Devices to be Purchased (#)\*:

Is the requested amount less than or equal to the school/district's maximum eligibility for its priority area?\*

Yes  No

**Section 3: Description of Network/Device Inventory and Statement of Need**

Briefly describe your district's/school's current network capacity and inventory of digital learning devices (laptops, desktops, tablets, or other mobile devices) used for instruction. This description should also include demonstration of prior device investment, the leveraging of available local options (SPLOST, BYOD, Title funds, QBE funds, other funds, and local partnerships), and why these other options are not enough. Finally, describe why the equipment or devices requested in this grant application are the most critical next step for your district/school. Please note that reviewers will have your LEA's answers provided in the GaDOE technology survey when reviewing this section. (500 words or less)\*



**Section 4: Equipment Selection/Deployment/Maintenance Plans**

Please select the budget spreadsheet template your district/school is uploading, and then upload it below.

- Priority 1:** Local Match for E-Rate Category 2 Network Equipment and Services
- Priority 2:** Up to \$50/student for Network Equipment and Services
- Priority 3:** Up to \$50/student for End-User Digital Devices

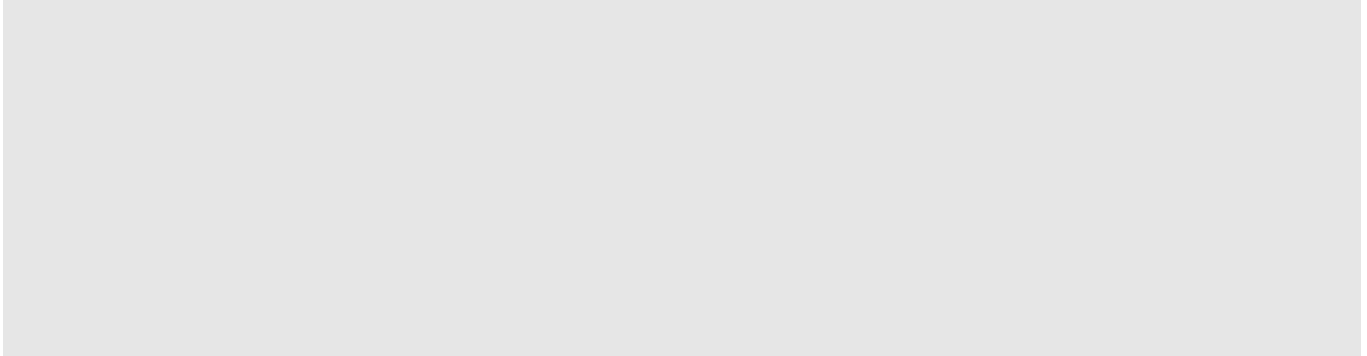
Please have this separate document available for upload during the application process using the template available at this link.

Briefly describe the steps and criteria your district/school used and will use to select equipment to ensure that they are the best fit for your digital learning needs outlined in Section 6 and that competitive pricing is received. If you have already selected equipment, describe why they are the best fit. (300 words or less)\*

*(Only if Priority 1 or 2)* Briefly describe your equipment installation and maintenance plans, including maintenance during and between school years and the expected equipment life. (300 words or less)\*

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*(Only if Priority 3)* Briefly describe your device deployment and maintenance plans, including chain of custody processes, maintenance during and between school years, and the expected device life. (300 words or less)\*



*(Only visible for Priority 3)* Are all devices that will be purchased compliant with Georgia Milestones minimum device requirements as specified by the Georgia Department of Education? Please note that only Georgia Milestones compliant devices are eligible for funding. [Specifications available here.](#)\*

Yes  No

**Section 5: Incremental Investment Tie-In**

*(If Priority 1 or 2)* If awarded your grant request, briefly describe what steps you have taken or commit to take to ensure that your network is prepared to fully utilize the increased connectivity that the grant enables. Describe how this application aligns with your LEA or school technology plan. (300 words or less)\*

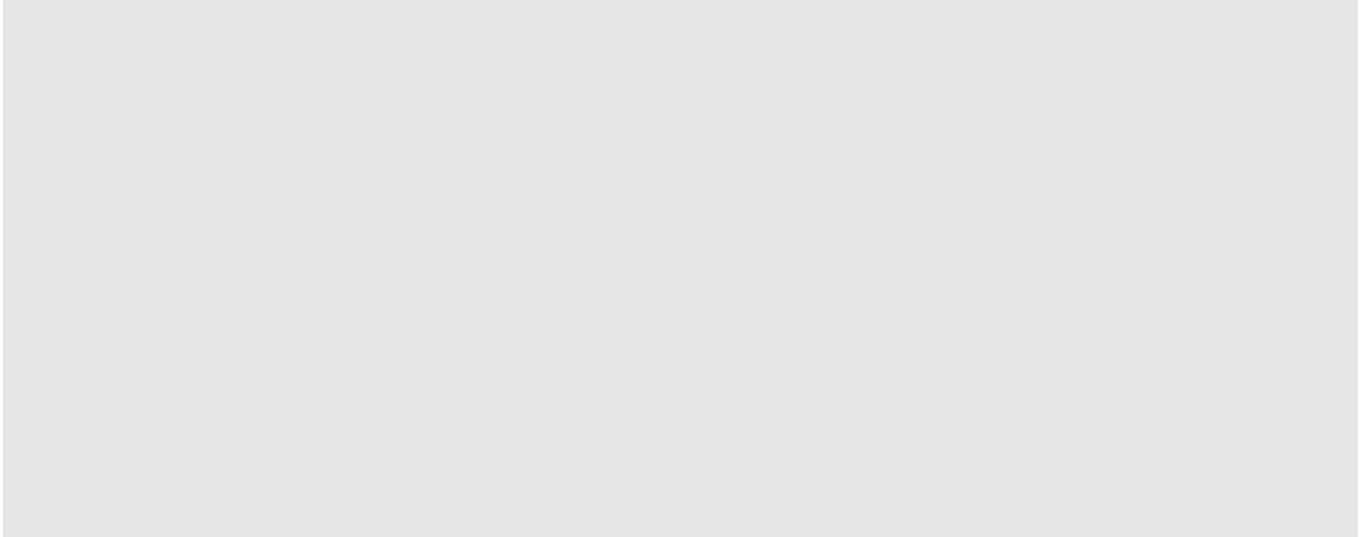
*(If Priority 3)* If awarded your grant request, briefly describe what steps you have taken or commit to take to ensure that your network is prepared to accommodate the additional devices for simultaneous usage. Describe how this application aligns with your LEA or school technology plan. (300 words or less)\*

If you received a grant award from a previous Connections for Classrooms program round, describe how this grant will complement that initial investment. If you did not apply for any previous Connections for Classrooms program rounds, please describe why you did not apply for funds and how this grant will complement your current network efforts. (250 words or less)\*



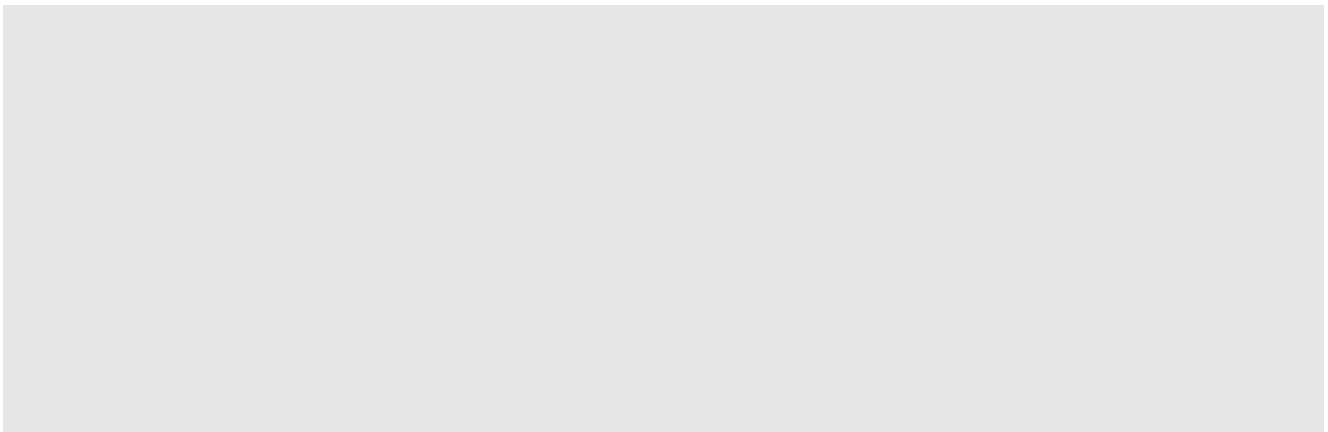
**Section 6: Digital Learning Plans**

Please describe your district's/school's strategy to change instruction to implement digital learning as a result of receiving this grant. Specifically describe how this strategy will promote student-centered learning to improve student outcomes and give students some measure of control over the time, path, place, and pace of learning? What will this grant enable that is not possible under your current network connectivity or device limitations? (500 words or less)\*



**Section 7: Instructional Staff Readiness Plan**

Describe your plan to ensure that instructional staff members are able to successfully integrate increased connectivity or additional devices into their instruction and allow students to have a measure of control over the time, path, place, and pace of learning. Include a discussion of how you will diagnose and address instructional staff learning needs as well as specific and attainable measures to gauge the success of the support provided. Please do not describe professional development efforts unrelated to this grant program. (300 words or less)\*



**Section 8: Binding Authority**

I certify to the best of my knowledge the following\*

I am authorized to make this request on behalf of the educational system.

I certify to the best of my knowledge the following\*

The equipment purchases intended with these funds are within the requirements and parameters of the Grant Program Guidelines.

If awarded, the district/school will comply with all grant requirements, including tracking expenditures and reporting student data on outcomes.

Name:\*

Title:\*

Date:\*

This application is COMPLETE and READY FOR SUBMISSION.

Yes, this application is complete\*