Connections for Classrooms

Round 5

THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF
STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

October 3, 2017

Grant Application Assistance Webinar

Introduction

The purpose of this presentation is to help you prepare an application for Round 5 that aligns with the grant priorities as well as answer questions that you have about the program.

Discussion Topics

- Grant Overview

- Eligibility

- Priorities

- Grant Program Materials Overview

- Application Submission Package

- Applications Sections and Rubric

- Contact Information

Grant Overview

Goal: To enable rural, high-need districts that are poised to implement digital learning to upgrade their digital networks or purchase laptops, tablets, or other mobile devices used for instruction.

Funding: Approximately $10 million

Key Dates:

November 15, 2017 Grant Applications Close   February 28, 2018 Notice of Intents Due

January 2018 Award Announcements Made   March 31, 2020 Reimbursement Req. Deadline
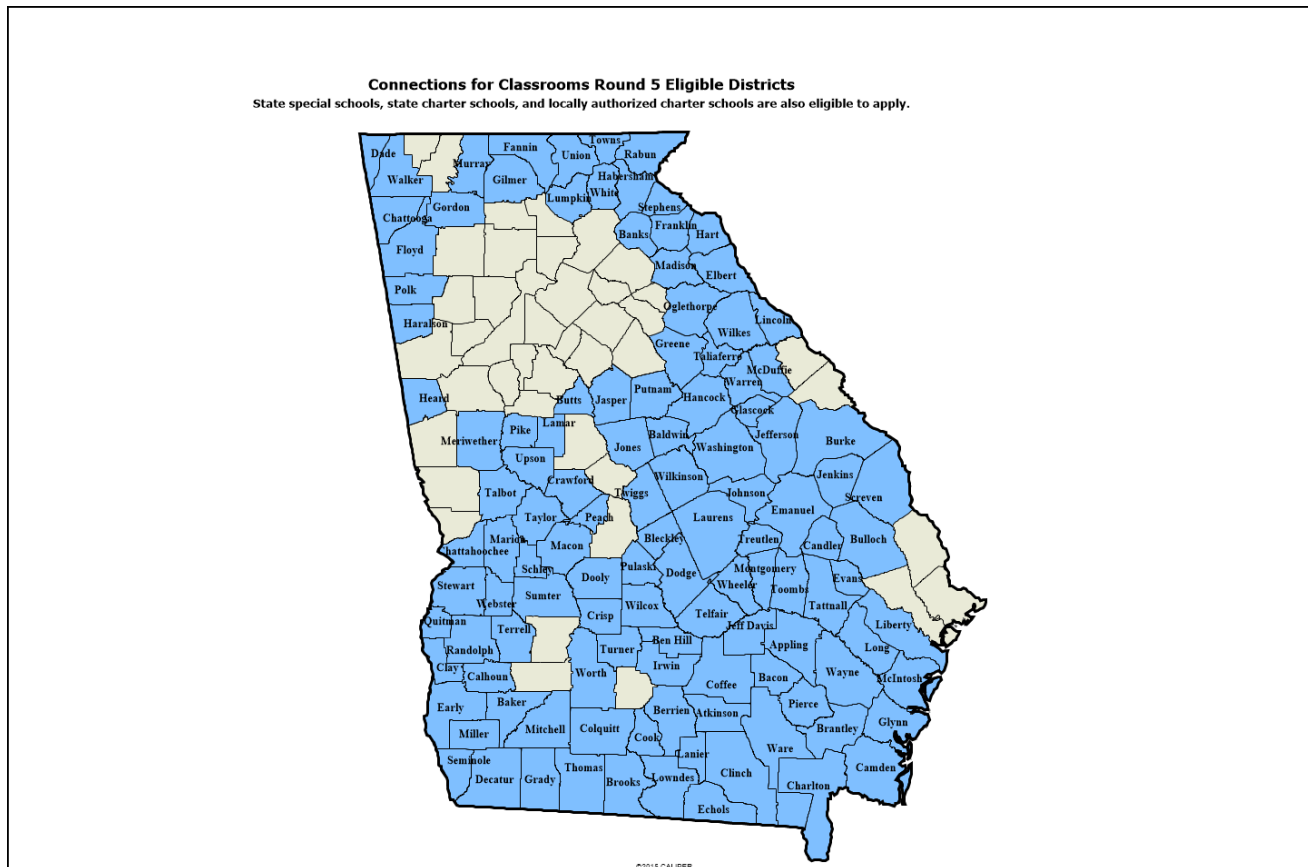
Partnering Agencies:

- Governor's Office of Student Achievement
- Georgia Department of Education
- Georgia Department of Community Affairs

Eligibility

- To be eligible, LEAs must meet the following two criteria:

    - **High-Need:** LEAs located in one of 117 Tiers 1 - 3 counties using the Georgia Department of Community Affairs' annual job tax credit tiers. These counties represent the counties with the highest unemployment rate, lowest per capita income, and highest percentage of residents whose incomes are below the poverty level in the state.
    - **Rural:** LEAs serving less than 25 students per square mile.

- The three state schools.
- State and local charter schools are eligible.

Eligibility

117 Georgia LEAs identified as rural and high-need are eligible.

Connections for Classrooms Round 5 Eligible Districts
State special schools, state charter schools, and locally authorized charter schools are also eligible to apply.

Priorities

- **Priority 1:** Local match funding for FY2018 E-Rate Category 2 school network infrastructure costs

- **Priority 2:** School or district network infrastructure up to $50 per student
  - **To be eligible for this item, districts must have utilized all Category 2 E-Rate eligibility. Only equipment and services that would be Category 2 eligible will be available for request.*

- **Priority 3:** Digital devices up to $50 per student
  - **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 are needed over the next two years. See Grant Guidelines document for list of eligible equipment.*

Priorities

- For Priorities 2 and 3, the October 2017 FTE K-12 enrollment should be used to determine total eligibility.

- These funds are <u>not</u> intended to purchase a $50 device or piece of equipment per student. Rather, the total eligible funding amount derived from the $50/student should be used for network equipment or end-user digital devices that comply with grant requirement and will best serve the students.

Grant Materials Overview

The [Grant Program website](#) has the following materials to guide the development of your application:

- Program Procedures Document
- Eligibility Criteria
- Application Planning Document (with link to online application)
- School Budget Template
- Scoring Rubric
- FAQs

Application Submission Package Materials

1. **[Application Form](#)**
    -   The application planning document has the full application, so you can see all the questions without having to fill in information online.

2. **Application Attachments**

    a. Grant Budget Templates (templates for Priorities 1,2,3 provided online)
        -   Total Funding Request and Other Relevant School-Level Information

Applications Sections and Rubric

- Applications will be evaluated for their ability to achieve the objectives of the Connections for Classrooms program.

- At least two independent reviewers will evaluate each application using the scoring rubric outlined below. The total points possible are 100.

- Since funding is limited, in the case of ties GOSA reserves the right to conduct interviews with applicants to make final award decisions.

Scoring Rubric Points Possible by Application Section	
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
TOTAL	100

Applications Sections and Rubric

Section 1

- Applicant Type (School District, Local Charter School, State Charter School, or State School)

- LEA or School General Information (LEA or School name/number)

- Grant Application Lead and Secondary Contact Information

Section 2

- Previous E-Rate Funding Application Year(s) (FY15 thru FY17)

- Category 2 E-Rate Budget Fully Utilized for this Funding Cycle (YES/NO)

- Do you plan to upgrade network infrastructure within the next 2 years? (YES/NO)

- Priority Applying For (1, 2, or 3)

- Grant funding applying for selected priority ($)

- Is this requested amount less than or equal to the LEA's maximum eligible amount (YES/NO)

Applications Sections and Rubric

Section 3 Question(s) – 20 points available

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)*

Please note that reviewers will have your LEA's answers provided in the GaDOE technology inventory when reviewing this section.

Applications Sections and Rubric

Section 3 Rubric Description for Exemplary Application

Full rubric with description of Satisfactory, Poor, and Unsatisfactory ratings is on the program website.

Section 3: Description of Network/Device Inventory and Statement of Need (20 points)		
Evaluation	Description	Points
Exemplary	The applicant clearly describes the schools' current network capacity, inventory of devices used in instruction, and how the requested equipment is the most critical next step for the district/school. The application includes clear descriptions of prior network/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. The description aligns with the data submitted in the GaDOE's annual technology survey.	20

Applications Sections and Rubric

Section 4 Question(s) – 15 points available

Upload the appropriate budget template described earlier.

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)*

Applications Sections and Rubric

Priority 1 Network Equipment Requested by District Office and School				
LEA Name			*ONLY USE THIS TABLE IF APPLYING TO PRIORITY 1 FOR E-RATE LOCAL MATCH OF NETWORK EQUIPMENT*	
LEA Number				
School Name (if applying as a school)				
School Number (if applying as a school)				
Expected E-Rate Discount Rate (Enter as %)				
Total Requested Funds	$ -			
School Name	**School ID**	**Brief Description of Equipment Requested** *Use one line per type of equipment requested, so schools/districts can have more than one entry below if multiple items purchased. Please ensure the requested equipment aligns with E-Rate Category 2 Eligible Services List.*	**Projected Total Cost** *Based upon Quotes or Comparable Pricing from other LEA.*	**Projected Local Match Portion**
Example High School	0000	32 Wireless Access Points	$$$$$	$$$$$
Example Elementary School	0001	Recabling LAN	$$$$$	$$$$$
Example Elementary School	0001	Replacing 7 switches	$$$$$	$$$$$
Example School District Central Office	N/A	1 Router	$$$$$	$$$

Applications Sections and Rubric

Priority 2 Network Equipment Requested by District Office and School			
LEA Name			*ONLY USE THIS TABLE IF APPLYING TO PRIORITY 2 FOR NETWORK EQUIPMENT THAT IS ABOVE YOUR E-RATE ELIGIBILITY.
LEA Number			
School Name (if applying as a school)			
School Number (if applying as a school)			
Total Requested Funds	$ -		
School Name	**School ID**	**Brief Description of Equipment Requested** *Use one line per type of equipment requested, so schools/districts can have more than one entry below if multiple items purchased. Please ensure the requested equipment aligns with E-Rate Category 2 Eligible Services List.*	**Projected Total Cost** *Based upon Quotes or Comparable Pricing from other LEAs*
Example High School	0000	32 Wireless Access Points	$$$$$
Example Elementary School	0001	Recabling LAN	$$$$$
Example Elementary School	0001	Replacing 7 switches	$$$$$
Example School District Central Office	N/A	1 Router	$$$$$

Applications Sections and Rubric

Priority 3 Digital Devices Requested by School			
LEA Name			
LEA Number			*ONLY USE THIS TABLE IF APPLYING TO PRIORITY 3 FOR DIGITAL DEVICES.
School Name (if applying as a school)			
School Number (if applying as a school)			
Total Requested Funds			
Total Number of Devices Requested (Autosummed from Column D)		0	
Projected Cost Per Device		#DIV/0!	
School Name	**School ID**	**Projected Number of Requested Devices**	**Projected Number of Students Using Requested Devices**
Example High School	*0000*	*264*	*972*

Applications Sections and Rubric

Section 4 Question(s) – 15 points available (continued)

(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)*

(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 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

Applications Sections and Rubric

Section 4 Rubric Description for Exemplary Application

Full rubric with description of Satisfactory, Poor, and Unsatisfactory ratings is on the program website.

Section 4: Equipment Selection/Deployment/Maintenance Plans (15 points)		
Evaluation	Description	Points
Exemplary	The LEA demonstrates clear and detailed planning for equipment procurement tailored to their needs outlined in Section 3 and subsequent deployment and management. The applicant clearly describes how the equipment was selected or will be selected through procurement to best fit the LEA's digital learning plans outlined in Section 6, including the steps that have been or will be taken to ensure competitive pricing. The plan also outlines clear chain of custody processes (applicable only for digital devices), maintenance during and between school years, and the expected equipment life. The budget information is complete and aligns with the requested total funds.	15

Applications Sections and Rubric

Section 5 Question(s) – 10 points available

(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)*

Applications Sections and Rubric

Section 5 Question(s) – 10 points available (continued)

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)*

Applications Sections and Rubric

Section 5 Rubric Description for Exemplary Application

Full rubric with description of Satisfactory, Poor, and Unsatisfactory ratings is on the program website.

Section 5: Incremental Investment Tie-In (10 points)		
Evaluation	Description	Points
Exemplary	Requests for network equipment (Priorities 1 or 2) clearly describe what steps have been taken or will be taken to ensure the network can accommodate requested equipment, included sufficient bandwidth capacity and surrounding wiring/equipment necessary for full equipment utilization. Requests for digital devices (Priority 3) clearly describe what steps have been taken or will be taken to ensure the network can accommodate devices for simultaneous usage, including sufficient bandwidth capacity, internal fiber/wiring, switch capacity, and wireless access point (WAP) deployment. The applicant clearly describes how this application aligns with the district or school's technology plan. If the applicant received a prior CFC grant award, the application clearly describes how a Round 5 grant will complement that initial investment. If the applicant did not apply for prior CFC grant awards, the application clearly describes why the LEA did not apply for prior funds and how a Round 5 grant will complement its current network efforts.	10

Applications Sections and Rubric

Section 6 Question(s) – 35 points available

Please describe your district's/school's strategy to change instruction to implement <u>digital learning</u> 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)*

Applications Sections and Rubric

Section 6 Rubric Description for Exemplary Application

Full rubric with description of Satisfactory, Poor, and Unsatisfactory ratings is on the program website.

Section 6: Digital Learning Plans (35 points)		
Evaluation	Description	Points
Exemplary	The applicant clearly describes its strategy to change instruction to implement digital learning as a result of receiving this grant, specifically facilitating learning with technology that gives students some control over time, place, path, and/or pace. Applicant provides a clear link to improved student outcomes. Applicant clearly describes what this grant will enable that is not possible under the district's/school's current device inventory.	35

Applications Sections and Rubric

Section 7 Question(s) – 20 points available

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)*

Applications Sections and Rubric

Section 7 Rubric Description for Exemplary Application

Full rubric with description of Satisfactory, Poor, and Unsatisfactory ratings is on the program website.

Section 7: Instructional Staff Readiness Plans (20 points)		
Evaluation	Description	Points
Exemplary	The school/district demonstrates clear capacity 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/or pace of learning. The plan clearly articulates how the school/district will diagnose and address instructional staff learning needs. The plan has specific and attainable measures to gauge success of the support provided.	20

Applications Sections and Rubric

Section 8 Question(s)

Certification of the following:

- That the individual submitting application is authorized to make the request on behalf of the educational system.

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

- That the LEA will comply with all grant requirements, including tracking expenditures and reporting student data on outcomes.

Application Planning Contacts

Contact Information

Steve Korwan

Program Manager, Connections for Classrooms Grant Program

skorwan@georgia.gov

404-463-2399

Secondary Contact			
Sam Rauschenberg	404-463-3219	srauschenberg@georgia.gov	GOSA

E-rate Assistance Contact			
Charlie Jackson	706-583-2143	Charlie.Jackson@usg.edu	USG – Inf. Tech. Services