

Connections for Classrooms

Digital Learning Device Rural Grant Program



September 7, 2016

Grant Application Assistance Webinar

Introduction

Thank you for your efforts to prepare your grant submission and the many technology and instructional considerations that it entails!

The purpose of this presentation and the discussion on grant submission materials is to help you prepare an application that aligns with the grant priorities and answer questions that you have about the program.

Discussion Topics

- Grant Overview
- Eligibility
- 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 purchase laptops, tablets, or other mobile devices used for instruction.

Funding: Approximately \$5.5 million

Key Dates:

October 25, 2016 Grant Applications Close

February 24, 2017 Notice of Intent Due

January 2017 Award Announcements Made

December 31, 2018 Reimbursement Req. Deadline

Partnering Agencies:

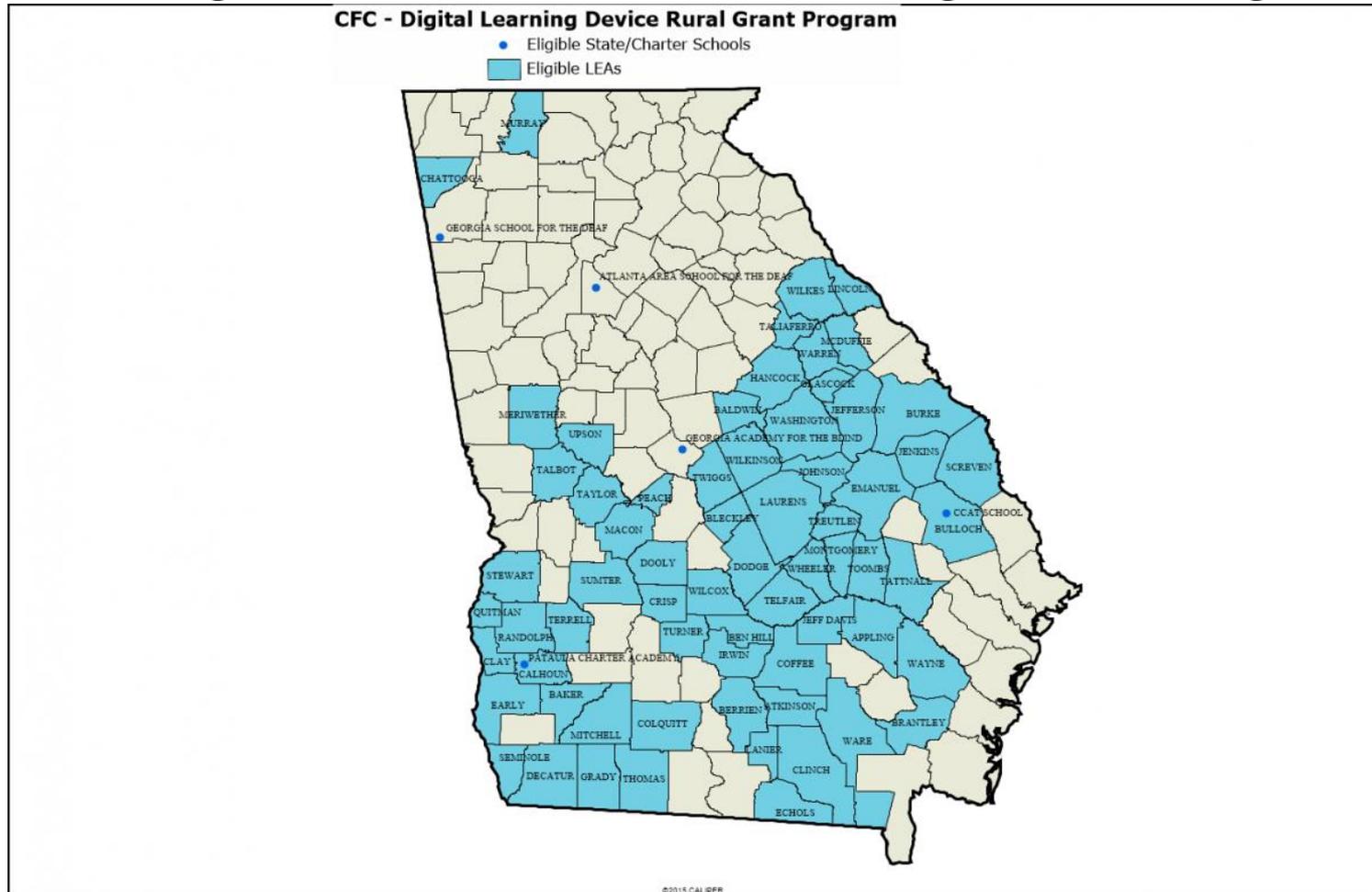
- Governor's Office of Student Achievement
- Georgia Department of Education
- Georgia Department of Community Affairs

Eligibility

- To be eligible, LEAs must meet the following two criteria:
 - **High-Need**: LEAs located in one of 71 Tier 1 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 are eligible.
- State charter schools that are located in a Tier 1 County and have an attendance zone in which all LEAs are eligible for the grant are also eligible.
- Each LEA is eligible to apply for up to \$75/student based upon the March FTE count. The Eligible Fund List is posted on the program website.
 - This amount was only used to determine the cap for eligible funding. It does not mean that an LEA has to spend \$75 per device.

Eligibility

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



Grant Materials Overview

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

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

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. LEA Grant Budget by School (template provided online)
 - Total Funding Request
 - By school, projected devices purchased and estimated count of students served
- b. Applicable vendor/third party network validation document for device usage
 - Verification from either the network vendor or another external party with broadband network experience that the network is prepared to serve the increased traffic resulting from the devices.

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 Current Device Inventory and Statement of Need	15
Section 4: Device Selection/Deployment/Maintenance Plans	20
Section 5: Assurance of Network Preparedness for Effective Device Usage	15
Section 6: Digital Learning Plans	35
Section 7: Instructional Staff Readiness Plans	15
Section 8: Binding Authority and Assurances	0
TOTAL	100

Applications Sections and Rubric

Section 1

- LEA General Information (LEA name/number and EIN)
- Grant Application Lead and Secondary Contact Information

Section 2

- Total grant funds requested (\$)
- Expected number of devices to be purchased (#)
- Is this requested amount less than or equal to the LEA's maximum eligible amount found in the Digital Learning Device Rural Grant Program Eligibility spreadsheet ("Maximum Eligible Funds by LEA") located on the Connections for Classrooms website?* (YES/NO)

Applications Sections and Rubric

Section 3 Question(s) – 15 points available

Briefly describe your LEA's current inventory of devices (laptops, tablets, or other mobile devices) used for instruction (*500 words or less*).

This description should include:

- A 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.

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 Current Device Inventory and Statement of Need (15 points)	
Evaluation	Description
Exemplary	The LEA has a clear need for devices and has exhausted other funding options. The applicant clearly describes the schools' current inventory of devices (laptops, tablets, or other mobile devices) that meet minimum Georgia Milestones requirements and are used in instruction. It includes clear descriptions 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. The description aligns with the data submitted in the <u>GaDOE's</u> annual technology inventory.

Applications Sections and Rubric

Section 4 Question(s) – 20 points available

- Upload Grant Budget by School (using template on program website)
- Assurance of Georgia Milestones minimum device requirements compliance
- Briefly describe the steps and criteria your LEA used and will use to select devices to ensure that they are the best fit for your digital learning needs outlined in Section 3 and that competitive pricing is received. If you have already selected devices, describe why they are the best fit. (200 words or less)
- Briefly describe your device deployment, maintenance, and technical support plans (200 words or less), including:
 - Chain of custody processes,
 - Maintenance during and between school years
 - How technical support will be provided during instructional time, and
 - The expected device life

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: Device Selection/Deployment/Maintenance/Technical Support Plans (20 points)	
Evaluation	Description
Exemplary	The LEA demonstrates clear and detailed planning for device procurement tailored to their needs outlined in Section 3 and subsequent deployment and management of the devices. All requested devices are compliant with Georgia Milestones requirements. The applicant clearly describes how the devices were 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, maintenance during and between school years, how technical support will be provided during instructional time, and the expected device life. The budget information is complete and aligns with the requested total funds.

Applications Sections and Rubric

Section 5 Question(s) – 15 points available

- 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. (300 words or less)
 - *In addition, upload a document or letter from the network vendor or another external party with broadband network expertise that verifies that the existing network infrastructure, or the infrastructure to be deployed within the next year, can adequately serve the additional devices requested.*

AND EITHER

- If you received a grant award from a previous CFC round, describe how a Digital Learning Device Rural Grant Program grant will complement that initial investment. (250 words or less)

OR

- If you did not apply for any previous CFC rounds, please describe why you did not apply for funds and how a Digital Learning Device Rural Grant Program 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: Assurance of Network Preparedness for Effective Device Usage (15 points)

Evaluation	Description
Exemplary	The LEA's network preparations are detailed and clearly outline how it will accommodate requested devices. A certification document or letter from the vendor or another external party ensuring network preparedness has been included. The applicant clearly describes what steps have been taken or will be taken to ensure the schools' networks are prepared to accommodate the additional devices for simultaneous usage, including sufficient bandwidth capacity, internal fiber/wiring, switch capacity, and wireless access point (WAP) deployment. If the applicant received a prior CFC grant award, the application clearly describes how a Digital Learning Device Rural Grant Program 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 Digital Learning Device Rural Grant Program grant will complement its current network efforts.

Applications Sections and Rubric

Section 6 Question(s) – 35 points available

Please describe the LEA's strategy to change instruction to implement digital learning as a result of receiving this grant. (500 words or less)

- 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 LEA's current device inventory?

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
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 LEA's current device inventory.

Applications Sections and Rubric

Section 7 Question(s) – 15 points available

Describe your plan to ensure that instructional staff members are able to successfully integrate requested devices into their instruction and allow students to have a measure of control over the time, path, place, and pace of learning. (300 words or less)

- It is required that your LEA 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 this grant program.

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 (15 points)

Evaluation	Description
Exemplary	The LEA demonstrates clear capacity to ensure that instructional staff members are able to successfully integrate requested 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 LEA will diagnose and address instructional staff learning needs. The plan has specific and attainable measures to gauge success of the support provided.

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

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GOSA

Appendix

Technology Tiers

Education Technology Ecosystem

