

Denton Independent School District

Kindergarten, 6th, and 9th grade Chromebook 2024-2025 Refresh Purchase

May 14, 2024

SUMMARY:

This item requests approval of the quote from Dell EMC in the amount of \$5,500,000.00 for the purchase of and services for Dell Chromebook replacements for kindergarten, 6th and 9th grade students.

BOARD VALUE:

Growth & Management... In pursuit of excellence, we value demonstrating effective and efficient management of district resources and providing leadership and/or oversight to ensure District meets all fiscal, legal, and regulatory requirements.

PREVIOUS BOARD ACTION:

On January 10, 2023, the Board of Trustees called for the 2023 bond election with the recommendation by the Bond Committee. On May 6, 2023, the bond was approved by the voters of Denton ISD.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

On January 12, 2016, the Technology Division presented the Digital Learning Design plan to the Board of Trustees, outlining the Chromebook initiative. Initially, the plan proposed a shared collaboration model for Chromebooks in the classroom. However, due to the COVID pandemic, the need for remote learning became crucial. Consequently, the District transitioned to a one-to-one Chromebook model, enabling students to use their devices in remote learning environments as necessary. This shift has provided students with improved access to online resources and textbooks, enhancing their overall learning experience.

With the May 2023 bond approval, Denton ISD will continue to update student devices on a four-to-five-year lifecycle.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES:

Each Chromebook model has a designated 'end of auto updates' (EAU) determined by Google and the Chromebook motherboard Intel chip. Once the Chromebook reaches its EAU, it will no longer receive Chrome OS updates. As a result, these devices pose a security risk to the district's network infrastructure and experience reduced functionality with apps and extensions.

Denton ISD will increase the specs on the Chromebook from:

- 4GB memory to 8GB memory
- 32GB hard drive to 64GB hard drive

The enhanced specifications will enable efficient processing of the online software applications the students are required to use. Alongside the upgraded Chromebooks, Dell is providing an additional comprehensive warranty that allows for an additional 10% accidental damage without any additional charges, resulting in a cost savings related to damages.

Denton ISD will follow a refresh cycle which includes refreshing kindergarten, 6th, and 9th grade Chromebooks. Upon graduation, seniors will have the option to retain their Chromebook through the Senior Chromebook Retention initiative. To be eligible, seniors must have participated in Chromebook insurance or pay an equivalent amount, up to a maximum of \$80.00 for all four years of high school.

The Dell purchase will be made utilizing a State of Texas DIR contract# TSO 3763. This project is being brought for approval in accordance with the District's CH(local) policy.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:

The cost will be borne through the 2023 bond authorization.

BENEFIT OF ACTION:

The approval of this purchase will allow the District to replace the kindergarten, 6th, and 9th grade Chromebooks.

SUPERINTENDENT’S RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the quote from Dell EMC for the purchase of and services for Dell Chromebook replacements for kindergarten, 6th and 9th grade students be approved.

STAFF PERSONS RESPONSIBLE:

Robert Pierce, Chief Technology Officer
Susan Cheatham, Technology Services Department Manager
Cindy Willis, Director of Purchasing

ATTACHMENTS:

None

APPROVAL:

Signature of Staff Member Proposing Recommendation: _____

Signature of Divisional Assistant Superintendent: _____

Signature of Superintendent: _____