



Executive Summary Finance Committee Meeting

DATE: October 21, 2021

TOPIC: Infinite Connections for Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF) Program Assistance for iPad
Reimbursement

PREPARED BY: Jordan Stephen

Recommended for:

- Action
- Discussion
- Information

Purpose/Background:

To help offset expenses from the Covid-19 pandemic, the Federal Government established the Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF) program which allows schools and libraries to request funding for connected devices and broadband connections for off-campus use by students. The ECF program operates similarly to E-Rate. The District submitted an application before the second ECF program application window closed on October 13, 2021.

Upon review of past District purchases, it was determined that Lincolnwood School District 74 could apply for funding to offset the cost of up to 280 iPad devices which were purchased between July 1, 2021 and June 30, 2022. These iPad devices were purchased to expand the 1:1 program to third and fourth grade students, and are being funded through the ESSER II Grant. With the help of Infinite Connections, our local E-Rate consultant, the District was able to determine that the purchase of the iPads met the criteria of this ECF program. SD74 wishes to continue with Jane Kratochvil of Infinite Connections to provide ECF with a narrative, to be submitted at a future point in the process, on how these iPad devices benefit teaching and learning, including possible remote learning scenarios.

If ECF approves the application, the District would follow next steps including a parental notification component and inventory documentation.

Fiscal Impact:

\$1,500 for ECF Program Assistance from Infinite Connections

If approved by ECF, the District may be allocated up to \$108,000. If funded by ECF, the ESSER II budget would be amended and refiled with new expenditures. If the project is not funded, then the District can simply comply with the original plan of allocating ESSER II funding reimbursement to pay for this purchase.

Recommendation:

This summary is for informational purposes.