

Denton Independent School District
Emergency Connectivity Fund Grant - Chromebook Purchase
January 11, 2022

SUMMARY:

This item requests approval of the quote from Dell Marketing L.P. in the amount of \$4,017,000.00 for the purchase of new Chromebooks to replace the TEA-subsidized Chromebooks using 100% reimbursement from the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF) at a net zero cost to the District for the devices.

BOARD GOAL:

Growth & Management - Demonstrate effective and efficient management of district resources

PREVIOUS BOARD ACTION:

Date	Board Action
July 28, 2020	Workshopped Operation Connectivity program and DISD's intention to purchased 12,000 Chromebooks and 3,000 hotspots
August 3, 2020	Approved Region 4 ILA for purchasing through TEA's Operation Connectivity
August 11, 2020	Received update on Operation Connectivity Bulk Purchase
December 15, 2020	Approved purchase of 8,000 Chromebooks from TEA's Operation Connectivity Prior Purchase Reimbursement Program (PPRP) to replace existing Chromebooks that had exceeded their End of Active Updates (EAU) date (i.e. devices at least five years old)
January 26, 2021	Approved purchase of 1,400 additional Chromebooks from TEA's PPRP for EAU replacement

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

While the TEA Chromebooks were the only way forward to enable the District to move to a one-to-one model from our existing two-to-one model in the necessary time frame, the devices did not meet our standards. These devices did not have touch screens. After distribution to high school students who were anticipated to be the least impacted by the non-touch devices, the need for every student to have a touch screen regardless of level became apparent. For example, the Curriculum & Instruction Division has stated that every secondary math student needs to have a touch-enabled device and the students and teachers are currently struggling to overcome this deficiency in the TEA devices.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES:

There will be ancillary costs associated with this project that are not reimbursable. These include E-Rate consulting services as well as device deployment services. Each of these items will remain below the threshold for Board approval and will be managed independently of the ECF Chromebook purchase.

The classroom display and audio-visual technology will be purchased from Dell Marketing L.P. through a Texas Local Governmental Purchasing Cooperative (DIR) contract award. This purchase is being brought for approval in accordance with the District's CH (local) policy.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:

The cost will be borne through the General Fund fund balance and reimbursed through the ECF E-Rate Program award. District staff are working toward making sure the device purchase is a net zero transaction for this fiscal year.

BENEFIT OF ACTION:

Passage of this purchase will provide 12,000 replacements to the TEA student Chromebooks that have proven to be inadequate for the needs of the District's teachers and students.

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the quote from Dell Marketing L.P. in the amount of \$4,017,000.00 for the purchase of student replacement Chromebooks be approved.

STAFF PERSONS RESPONSIBLE:

Robert Pierce, Chief Technology Officer
Vicki Garcia, Executive Director of Financial Operations
Dianna Casper, Director of Purchasing

ATTACHMENT:

None

APPROVAL:

Signature of Staff Member Proposing Recommendation: _____

Signature of Divisional Assistant Superintendent: _____

Signature of Superintendent: _____