



MEMORANDUM

TO: District Superintendents

FROM: Theresa Siskind, Deputy Superintendent
Division of Accountability

DATE: September 12, 2007

SUBJECT: School Technology Funding

I am pleased to announce that the K–12 Technology Partnership has once again been able to secure funds to make it possible to provide school technology funding for your districts. The Partnership remains committed to providing funds to the extent possible.

The South Carolina Department of Education will begin processing monthly installment payments to districts this month. These are FY 2007–08 funds with carry-forward provision. The funds are distributed based on ADM and Grades 1–3 Free and Reduced Lunch counts for the second preceding year. The enclosed spreadsheet shows the allocation for each district.

The Teacher Technology Proficiency Proviso (1A.71) states that “the State Department of Education shall approve teacher technology competency standards required by local school districts as part of the Teacher Professional Development Plan. Approval of the teacher technology standards by the Department shall be a prerequisite for expenditure of district technology funds.” Accordingly, each district must submit and receive approval of its district technology plan, including technology professional development plans and standards, by the Office of Technology in the State Department prior to expenditure of these funds. Current approval status of your district technology plan can be verified on the State Department’s Web site at <http://www.ed.sc.gov/agency/offices/tech/techplan/>.

Additionally, districts are required to complete an annual online school and district technology inventory site survey by no later than June 30 for each year in which funds are received or expended. The status of schools can be viewed at <http://www.ed.sc.gov/topics/researchandstats/reports/> for the school year ending June 30, 2007. The survey form for the school year ending June 30, 2008, will be available for online submission in the first quarter of 2008.

If either of these requirements is not currently met for your district, you are not authorized to expend these funds. Failure to comply with either of these two requirements can result in your district being required to return these funds.

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Guidance on the use of these funds is provided in the Funding Manual and will be available online at <http://www.ed.sc.gov/agency/offices/finance/manuals/>. A printed copy of this letter is being sent only to district superintendents. Additional copies may be obtained at <http://www.ed.sc.gov/agency/offices/tech/K12init/>.

These funds are provided for school technology or technology professional development. Allowable expenses include hardware, software, wiring and telecommunications equipment, and teacher e-mail. To support administrative hardware needs and to accommodate implementation of the Pearson software packages, up to 20 percent of your allocation may be used to purchase administrative hardware. In addition, you may use these funds for technology professional development or instructional materials to support technology professional development offered in districts.

For fiscal questions regarding this funding, please contact Mellanie Jinnette at 803-734-3605 or by e-mail at mjinnett@ed.sc.gov. For programmatic questions, please contact Dee Appleby at 803-734-5901 or by e-mail at dappleby@ed.sc.gov. Thank you for your dedication to ensuring that students are afforded full opportunity to develop essential technology skills and that technology tools are available in the classroom.

TS/dgl

Enclosure: FY08 School Technology Allocations

C: District Technology Coordinators
Mellanie Jinnette
Dee Appleby