

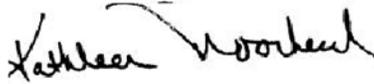


THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT / THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY, NY 12234

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Data Systems and Educational Technology

May 2015

TO: District Superintendents
Superintendents of Public Schools
Administrators of Public Schools

FROM: Kathleen Moorhead 

SUBJECT: Funding Support for Instructional Technology Devices

The Smart Schools Bond Act (SSBA) authorized the issuance of \$2 billion of general obligation bonds to finance improved educational technology and infrastructure to improve learning and opportunity for students throughout the State. The Smart Schools Bond Act guidance was released on April 27th and is available online at: http://www.p12.nysed.gov/mgtserv/smart_schools/.

In support of the SSBA, the New York State Education Department (NYSED) is pleased to announce \$14.5 million in additional funding through the federal Race to the Top grant. These funds are in support of the purchase of computer devices – including laptops and tablets – for students across the state to help integrate technology-rich learning experiences into students' daily instruction. Because the funding was originally approved for technology projects, federal rules require that the remaining funds be used only for technology-related projects and purchases.

The NYSED has collaborated with the US Department of Education, BOCES District Superintendents, and the Regional Information Centers (RICs) to finalize a process and plan for the purchase and distribution of devices. RICs are uniquely positioned to support this project as they are able to increase the purchasing power of individual districts by leveraging economies of scale and procurement best practices. Each RIC will purchase devices for their local districts through existing contracts aligned with state procurement requirements. Districts will be able to identify which IT devices best address their local needs. Funds will be allocated for each district based on a per student rate derived from their Resident Weighted Average Daily Attendance (RWADA). In the next few days, your RIC will provide communication to districts regarding allocations, devices available for purchase and the process.¹

Thank you for your continued assistance with this important work.

¹ The RICs will support the Big 4 city school districts in this process. New York City will have an alternate process in place.