

072
TECH1

Agency 072 ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

Project ID/Name: TECH1 LEA Technology Infrastructure

Project Description:

The Regents request \$22.8M from FY 2013 - FY 2016 for the LEA Technology Infrastructure project. Rhode Island public schools buildings have a varying degree of technical capacity. Upgrading many of these school's classrooms into classrooms ready for the 21st century is the only way to meet standards and raise test scores. In order to effectively determine the classroom readiness for wireless access, a detailed site survey must be done by a qualified vendor. RIDE will solicit vendors for this using a Request for Proposals (RFP). The selected vendor will be required to survey each Local Educational Agency (LEA) building and related classrooms to best determine how to achieve wireless access for the necessary population at the site. The results of this assessment will be used to provide grants to LEAs for the installation of equipment by approved vendors to achieve wireless capabilities in classrooms. RIDE expects that the dollar amount for each of the fiscal years will fluctuate due to unknown variables, such as availability of a vendor to perform 300+ school site surveys in a 12 month cycle. As such, installation will begin as reviews are completed during the current year and extend to subsequent years depending on district readiness. To fund these efforts, the Regents request \$20.0M, including \$4,100,000 in FY 2013, \$12,622,457 in FY 2014, \$3,077,543 in FY 2015, and \$75,000 in FY 2016.

In addition the Regents request an additional \$700,000 a year from FY 2013 to FY 2016 to fully fund the required State contribution to the RI Technology Education Access fund (RI-TEAF, also known as E-Rate). In the FY 2013 budget the Governor had requested a change to the fee structure that funds the E-Rate program in order to bring in approximately \$700,000 in new funding, while simultaneously eliminating the General Revenue contribution. The General Assembly did not change the fee structure or restore the General Revenue. Instead they instructed the State to use the newly approved LEA Technology Infrastructure project to serve as the State match. This was based on a misunderstanding whereby they were led to believe that the State could use the principal payments on the COPS as an in-kind State match and thereby would not have to appropriate any funds. However, the Federal E-Rate program does not allow such a strategy. As a result, RIDE is requesting that the \$700,000 be funded through the Capital Budget request instead. If COPS is not an appropriate funding source then RICAP could be used. Alternately, the funding could be restored to the operating budget via General Revenue support or via the fee structure change.

The intent of both the Governor's request and the General Assembly's enacted budget was to ensure that the full \$20.0 million went to upgrading infrastructure in school buildings throughout the state. If RIDE is forced to divert a portion of the funds to pay for the E-Rate program (which is also used to benefit local schools) it would impair our ability to accomplish the statewide upgrades that is the goal of this project.

Project Justification:

By drilling down to each classroom RIDE can be sure that each and every student will have the same access to the tools of the 21st century. This will require that every district be evaluated using a site survey by a certified vendor. The vendor would evaluate items like electrical capacity in a classroom, signal integrity, interference, security and power sources. The results of this survey would specifically map out a plan which will be the foundation used by the vendor to create an RFP for the LEAs. LEAs will then use existing State Master Price Agreements (MPAs) to secure the requirements determined in the site survey.

Project Status:

RIDE is creating the RFP to be used to solicit bids from qualified vendors.

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Strategic Criteria

Safety Concerns	None
Safety Narrative	
Code Violations	None
Code Narrative	
Energy Impact	Minor Positive
Energy Narrative	
More modern technology for the LEAs will also likely be more energy efficient.	
Customer Service	None
Customer Narrative	
Geographic Significance	Statewide
Geographic Narrative	
This initiative will help needier LEAs throughout the state to access the technology and systems needed to improve student achievement.	
Agency Mission	High
Agency Narrative	
Having all LEAs access the new statewide systems, not just the wealthy communities that can afford it, is crucial to RIDE's mission to improve student learning throughout the state and especially for the student groups with the largest achievement gaps.	
User Financing	0
User Narrative	
RIDE will aggressively court private foundation funding for these goals.	
Asset Management	Infrastructure
Asset Narrative	
Operating	None
Operating Narrative	
Historic Preservation	No
Historic Narrative	
Budgeted	No
Budget Narrative	

Critical Criteria

Critical Life Safety	No
Critical Life Safety Narrative	

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Critical Legal Liability No

Critical Legal Liability Narrative

Prior Binding Commitment No

Prior Binding Commitment Narrative

FY 2014 - FY 2018

Capital Improvement Plan Request System

Agency Request vs. Plan

Funding Source	Pre FY 2013	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	Post FY 2018	Total
Agency 072 ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION									
Project: TECH1 LEA Technology Infrastructure									
Status: Plan									
Certificates of Participation	\$0	\$6,000,000	\$5,000,000	\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000	\$0	\$0	\$20,000,000
Subtotal Plan	\$0	\$6,000,000	\$5,000,000	\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000	\$0	\$0	\$20,000,000
Status: Request									
Certificates of Participation	\$0	\$4,800,000	\$13,322,457	\$3,902,543	\$775,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$22,800,000
Subtotal Request	\$0	\$4,800,000	\$13,322,457	\$3,902,543	\$775,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$22,800,000