



Florida Department of Education

Tom Gallagher
Commissioner

July 1, 1999

MEMORANDUM

TO: District School Superintendents
FROM: Tom Gallagher
SUBJECT: 1999-00 Public School Technology Funds

The Department of Education is pleased to announce the availability of the 1999-00 Public School Technology Funds. Two items are included for your consideration (1) the planned distribution figures for public school technology funds for each district and (2) the proviso language related to specific Appropriation 115.

The 1999 Legislature authorized \$63,400,000 for distribution to school districts to enhance the learning environment for students through the use of technology. Funds are distributed to each district based on the 1998-99 reported unweighted FTE.

You will recall that prior to release of your district's allocation for 1998-99, a Technology Plan Update was submitted to the Department of Education for approval by the Commissioner. Approved Technology Plan Updates are on file in the Office of Educational Technology. A 1999-00 Technology Plan Update is not required. Updated technology plans may be submitted if there have been significant changes. Information about the essential components of a technology plan is available through the Office of Educational Technology homepage at: www.firn.edu/doe/edtech.

This year, in compliance with the proviso language of Appropriation 115, the release of 1999-00 Public School Technology Funds is contingent upon the submission of the Technology Resources Survey. The Technology Resources Survey is a revision of the Microcomputing Resources Survey used in previous years. The survey will be distributed to districts in mid August and be completed by each school. Districts must submit the survey for all schools by September 30, 1999. An optional district electronic reporting format is being developed.

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Distribution of 1999-00 Public School Technology funds will begin July 1999 for districts that submitted the 1998-99 Microcomputer Resources Survey (ESE 347). Further distribution of funds will be withheld for districts that do not submit a completed 1999-00 Technology Resources Survey by September 30, 1999. Districts that did not submit a 1998-99 Microcomputer Resources Survey will begin to receive Public School Technology Funds upon submission of a completed 1999-00 Technology Resources Survey. Specific details about the completion and submission of the Technology Resources Survey will be included in the August distribution.

Inquiries about the 1999 Appropriation should be addressed to Peter Lenkway, Office of Educational Technology, (850) 488-0980, SunCom: 278-0980, email: lenkway_p@popmail.firn.edu

TG/pl

Attachments

cc: Assistant Superintendents of Instruction
Finance Officers
Technology Contacts

Specific Appropriation

115	Aid to Local Government	
	Grants and Aids-Public School Technology	
	General Revenue Fund.....	\$63,400,000

Funds provided for public school technology in Specific Appropriation 115 shall be allocated by prorating the total on each district's share of the state total K-12 FTE.

Hardware and software purchases from funds provided in Specific Appropriation 115 shall be cycled by school districts to provide new equipment to students and programs with the highest need and oldest equipment.

From the funds provided in Specific Appropriation 115, \$1,000,000 shall be used for Library Equipment Automation Grants.

From the funds appropriated in Specific Appropriation 115 for Pasco County Schools, \$250,000 may be used for Sneaker Net.

From the funds appropriated in Specific Appropriation 115 for Gadsden County Schools, \$100,000 may be used to establish a computer literacy laboratory for the city of Midway.

The Department of Education is authorized to withhold the distribution of funds from Specific Appropriation 115 from districts which fail to complete a technology survey, by school, approved by the Commissioner of Education.