NEWS

This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action.
See MCI v. FCC. 515 F 2d 385 (D.C. Circ 1974).

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FCC AUTHORIZES RELEASE OF FUNDING TO QUALIFIED SCHOOLS AND LIBRARIES FOR OFF-PREMISES WIRELESS INTERNET PROJECTS

"Learning On-The-Go" Wireless Pilot Projects To Support and Advance Digital Learning and Digital Textbooks for K-12 Students and Others. Builds on National Broadband Plan.

Washington, D.C. – The FCC today officially launched an innovative program for 20 schools and libraries in 14 states aimed at giving participating K-12 students off-premises connections to the Internet to increase access to digital textbooks, cutting-edge interactive learning tools, and other innovative wireless technologies.

The new FCC wireless pilot project, "Learning On-The-Go," will provide up to $9 million for the 20 schools and libraries selected for the 2011-2012 funding year. It builds on the FCC's major modernization of the E-rate program last fall, and follows recommendations of the National Broadband Plan. Previously, the E-rate program supported on-campus connectivity only. According to a 2010 E-rate survey, approximately 50 percent of the schools and libraries that responded indicated that they plan to implement or expand the use of digital textbooks and other wireless devices for digital learning.

The 20 selected projects include initiatives to improve off-campus access to e-textbooks for students; connectivity for netbooks for students living in remote, isolated areas; and access to flexible, online education programs for home-bound students unable to attend classes.

To initiate the funding process, the FCC today issued an order listing the 20 selected project applicants, outlining participant reporting requirements and more detailed information about the program. Last September, the FCC initiated the pilot program in its *Schools and Libraries Sixth Report and Order* and, in November, issued a public notice setting a December application deadline. The Commission received 94 applications and, in March, issued a public notice announcing the initial selected project participants. Qualified pilot programs will be funded in the 2011-12 school year, assuming compliance with all other program requirements.

This pilot program is one of a series of initiatives in the FCC Education Agenda to modernize the E-rate program to help bring fast, affordable Internet access to schools and libraries across the country. In addition to this program's goal to support off-campus wireless Internet connectivity for mobile learning devices for schools and libraries across the country, the *Schools and Libraries Sixth Report and Order* is also helping to bring super-fast fiber connections to schools and libraries all across the country via unused fiber optic lines already in place. The FCC also opened the door to "School Spots" where schools have the option to provide Internet access to the local community after students go home, which can bring the benefits of super-fast broadband to people who otherwise lack access to the Internet.

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Under the "Learning On-The-Go" pilot program, mobile learning devices enable teachers and parents to tailor school curriculum and interactive learning to students' skill sets. Digital textbooks never go out of date and students will have greater opportunities to access the latest educational curriculum available. With digital textbooks, you can effectively stretch out the binding of a book and slide new content in – slide in an assessment, or a simulation, or videos – to bring lessons to life. Digital tools also help parents, allowing them to better monitor and evaluate how their children are doing and where they need more help. New wireless devices and applications will also help teacher integrate school and home work assignments for students, creating greater efficiency in the exchange of information.

The FCC's E-rate program will continue to support schools and libraries across America working toward the goal of helping ensure that America's students receive the best education and the high-tech skills to compete in the 21st Century economy.

A copy of the FCC Order is available on the FCC website at:
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-11-1181A1.pdf

The following is the list, alphabetical by state, of the 20 "Learning On-The-Go" wireless pilot projects selected by the FCC for 2011-2012.

1. Piedmont City School District (Piedmont, AL)
   The Piedmont City School System became the first school system in Alabama to implement a one-to-one laptop initiative, called MPower Piedmont. All laptops provide software and access to Internet resources for research, communication, multimedia content creation, and collaboration for use inside and outside of school.

2. Riverside Unified School District (Riverside, CA)
   This program utilizes netbooks, tablets, and laptops for its middle school students at four schools. About 70% of students residing in Riverside have access to free wireless connectivity and low-income students can obtain a free refurbished computer for home use through a digital inclusion training program. Riverside USD uses a cloud-based learning and content management system, which provides a blended learning environment so students and teachers can continue discussions and learning beyond the school walls and times. Riverside USD also collaborates with partners, such as textbook publishers, to provide content in a digital format to students.

3. San Diego Unified School District (San Diego, CA)
   The District has established a Mobile Learning Program to seamlessly integrate ubiquitous, one-to-one computing and other 21st century technology into all teaching and learning throughout the curriculum. Its program will serve 6th grade in eight middle schools and school-wide in two middle schools.

4. Aurora Public Schools/APS Online (Aurora, CO)
   APS Online is a hybrid online school, meaning the online learning experience is enhanced through focused classroom instruction, with an emphasis on high school students with a variety of socioeconomic challenges (medical challenges, drop-outs or the homeless), many of whom would not still be in school if not for the flexibility to receive instruction from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

5. Clay Hill Elementary School (Jacksonville, FL)
   The district currently has two pilots in progress for Internet access for its students: (1) the Leveraging Technology Initiative, a movement toward 1:1 computing by allowing students to bring their own devices (such as laptop computers, netbooks, tablets, and smartphones) on campus; and (2) the Digital Equity Initiative that addresses devices for low-income students.

6. Haralson County Board of Education/Haralson County High School (Buchanan, GA)
   This blended learning opportunity program integrates face-to-face learning with online learning opportunities for high school students through the use of netbooks, with an emphasis on achievement in math and science.

7. Sioux City Community School District (Sioux City, IA)
   This netbook program will provide wireless connectivity for 10th through 12th grade students across three high schools through blended instruction in its learning management system. This allows the district to extend the time and place of the classroom to virtually anytime and anywhere when coupled with offsite wireless access.

8. Orleans Parish School Board/Mary Bethune Elementary School (New Orleans, LA)
   This is a laptop program with broadband access through wireless data cards for 3rd through 6th grade elementary students. The software suite enables teachers to determine students' level of proficiency and engages a set of applications to empower the students with a digital learning environment.

9. Westwood Community Schools/Cyber High School (Dearborn Heights, MI)
   This program will use mobile devices and/or desktop computers with wireless mobile cards along with a comprehensive online learning environment that offers a virtual educational experience for high school students who are unable to attend school for a variety of reasons.

10. Michigan Technical Academy (Redford, MI)
    This netbook program utilizes an online mobile learning environment for its 5th through 8th graders with an emphasis on increasing educational productivity and proficiency with mobile learning devices, and to increase math, science, social studies, and English language arts proficiency with the use of technology.

11. Roy Municipal Schools (Roy, NM)
    This netbook program provides elementary and secondary students in an extremely rural area with off-premise Internet access to allow for interactive capabilities outside the classroom and beyond scheduled school hours.

12. City School District of New Rochelle (New Rochelle, NY)
    This laptop program targets certain student groups (English language learners, economically disadvantaged students, lower-performing students, and students with disabilities) in 5th through 9th grade. One part of the curriculum's objective is to enable students to access digital textbooks via wireless connectivity.

13. Southern Tier Library System (Painted Post, NY)
    The intent is to include handheld mobile devices, such as tablets, netbooks and smartphones as training platforms for its mobile JobLink project which provides online job searching, resume writing, job application skills, and digital literacy to unemployed and under employed individuals within a 3,500 square mile rural service area. The JobLink project would expand that training by providing wireless Internet access on handheld mobile devices.

14. Greater Southern Tier Boards of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) (Watkins Glen, NY)
    GST BOCES is an Educational Service Agency that supports 21 component districts in five counties across the Southern Tier of New York State. Its Mobile Learning Device Project will provide middle and high school students with ubiquitous access to online learning devices (such as, smartphones and netbooks) utilizing a virtual classroom software program.

15. Onslow County Schools (Jacksonville, NC)
    This program is intended to provide smartphones to high school students utilizing Project K-Nect targeted for use with Algebra I. Project K-Nect was designed to create resources for secondary at-risk students with a goal of increasing their math and science skills.

16. Mohican School in the Out-of-Doors, Inc. (Butler, OH)
    This is an outdoor environmental education school. The school proposes to use the funds to expand and strengthen environmental mobile learning for its students in grades 5th and 6th via the implementation of learning green tech mobile learning program, enabling computer based instruction to students using handheld devices (such as netbooks, smartphones) in the field. For example, instead of simply reading about the parts of the flower, students will take pictures of the parts and transmit them via the wireless network.

17. Summit Academy Community School for Alternative Learners (Canton, OH)
    Students enrolled at this school are on individualized learning plans and have Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD) or Aspergers' Disorder, which makes learning a challenge in a traditional classroom environment. This program utilizes smartphones as a portal to the curriculum, study materials, and a collaboration environment that positions students to be more effective communicators and problem solvers.

18. Foxfire Center for Student Success (Zanesville, OH)
    This program uses netbooks to expand the availability of mobile technology to its at-risk secondary students beyond the school day through an interactive educational platform that provides teachers the ability to upload assignments and videos, and provide graphic organizers, guided notes, and assessments.

19. Boys' Latin of Philadelphia Charter (Philadelphia, PA)
    This college prep high school for boys from low-income households has a program that allows sophomores to access the Internet through wireless mobile cards. The program supports both core subjects and its technology curriculum.

20. Katy Independent School District (Katy, TX)
    This program is designed to provide all 5th graders and teachers within the district with smartphones utilizing a classroom management system. The system allows teachers to create and upload assignments to a server where students then can log-in and sync their device to receive the teacher's updates.