2017

K–12 Technology Initiative

Report on Fiscal Year 2016–17

SC EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Education Oversight Committee (EOC) staff expresses its appreciation to the following individuals who provided data for this report:

Valarie Byrd, Cynthia Hearn, Dan Ralyea, and Nancy Williams of the South Carolina Department of Education;

Andrew Epting and Keith Osman of the Division of Technology Operations in the South Carolina Department of Administration; and

Officials from the 82 school districts and eight special schools who completed the 2017 SC Technology Counts Survey.
BACKGROUND

Since Fiscal Year 2014-15 the General Assembly has appropriated lottery revenues and EIA revenues of approximately $100 million to improve technology infrastructure in public schools. (Table 1)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fiscal Year</th>
<th>Total Appropriation</th>
<th>Source of Funds</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014-15</td>
<td>$29,288,976</td>
<td>Lottery Revenues</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015-16</td>
<td>$29,288,976</td>
<td>Lottery Revenues</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016-17</td>
<td>$29,288,976</td>
<td>Lottery Revenues</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017-18</td>
<td>$12,000,000</td>
<td>EIA Revenues (recurring)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL:</td>
<td>$99,866,928</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The annual provisos governing the allocation and accountability of these appropriations to school districts have not changed since Fiscal Year 2014-15. Funds are allocated to districts based on the prior year’s 135-day average daily membership (ADM) and on the poverty index of the district accordingly:

- For a school district with a poverty index of less than 75, the allocation is $35 per ADM;
- For a school district with a poverty index of at least 75 but no more than 85, the allocation is $50 per ADM; or
- For a school district with a poverty index of greater than 85 or a special school with no defined poverty index, the allocation is $70 per ADM.

School districts and special schools may expend the funds for three purposes, which are directly tied to specific state technology goals:

1. To improve external connections to schools, with a goal of reaching at least 100 kilobits per second, per student in each school by 2017;
2. To improve internal connections within schools, with a goal of reaching at least 1 megabit per second, per student in each school by 2017; and
3. To develop or expand one-to-one computing initiatives.

A district who has achieved the above state goals for technology infrastructure may submit a plan to the K-12 School Technology Initiative Committee for permission to expend its allocation on other technology-related uses.
The provisos governing the program in Fiscal Years 2016-17 and 2017-18 require the Education Oversight Committee (EOC) to develop a form that districts use to report to the K-12 School Technology Initiative Committee on how funds were expended. Working with the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE), the EOC in 2017 formulated questions that were included in the 2017 SC Technology Counts Survey to capture the following information:

- How were K-12 Technology Initiative Funds expended in Fiscal Year 2016-17?
- Are school districts and schools meeting the three state goals for technology infrastructure?
- How many districts sought and received permission from the K-12 Technology Initiative Committee to expend these funds on other technology uses?

Proviso 3.6 of the 2016-17 General Appropriation Act and Proviso 1A.84. of the 2017-18 General Appropriation Act are contained in Appendix A.

SURVEY RESULTS

All 82 school districts, including the South Carolina Public Charter School District, and eight special schools responded to the survey. The SCDE provided to the EOC on July 14, 2017 responses to questions related to the K-12 technology initiative program from the 2017 SC Technology Counts Survey. Hereafter, all references to the July 14, 2017 data are referred to as Original Responses.

On August 23, 2017 SCDE submitted to the EOC corrected responses from 25 school districts that amended their Fiscal Year 2016-17 projected expenditure data. On September 12, 2017 SCDE sent a third data set with additional corrections for Fiscal Year 2016-17 projected expenditure data from a total 34 school districts. It is unclear how the revised data were collected and if all districts had the ability to modify their initial responses. Data from the corrected submissions provided through September 12, 2017 are hereafter referred to as “Corrected Responses.” A timeline of the correspondence from the EOC and SCDE staff related to submission of data from the 2017 Technology Counts Survey is below.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July 14, 2017</td>
<td>SCDE provides results of the <em>2017 SC Technology Counts Survey</em> to EOC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 25, 2017</td>
<td>EOC staff emails SCDE staff about initial analysis of the survey results, asking for any documentation or guidance from SCDE to districts other than <em>2016-17 Funding Manual</em>, which is Appendix B, explaining how K-12 Technology Funds could be expended. SCDE staff acknowledge receipt of email.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 23, 2017</td>
<td>SCDE staff provides “corrected responses” to EOC regarding district expenditures in 2016-17.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 25, 2017</td>
<td>EOC asks SCDE staff for clarification on revised data, noting discrepancies in several districts’ reporting of total expenditures.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 12, 2017</td>
<td>SCDE staff provided to ECO staff additional “corrected responses” regarding district expenditures in 2016-17.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
How were K-12 Technology Initiative Funds expended in Fiscal Year 2016-17?

School districts were asked to respond to the following question on the 2017 SC Technology Counts Survey:

In Fiscal Year (FY) 2016–17 the General Assembly appropriated over $29 million to school districts for the K–12 Technology Initiative, Proviso 3.6 (does not include other local, grant, or alternative sources of funding). The law requires that districts must provide an itemized report on the amounts and uses of these funds. In collaboration with your district's finance/business officer, please provide an account of how the funds allocated to your school district in FY 2016–17 will be expended for Sub-fund 963 and Revenue code 3630. (The TOTAL should equate to the amount allocated in FY 2016–17)

The total amount of funds available to districts to expend in FY2016-17 was approximately $34.5 million, $29.1 million in FY17 appropriations and $5.4 million in projected funds carried forward from FY16 to FY17. (Table 2) The projected carry forward amounts are estimated based on the districts’ reporting of projected expenditures. Appendix C documents the amount of funds allocated to each district and special school in the state in Fiscal Year 2016-17. Because districts typically use the summer months to upgrade technology infrastructure and to purchase devices, carry forwards from one fiscal year to the next are significant, representing at least one-fourth of all available funds.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Original Responses</th>
<th>Corrected Responses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Actual Allocations</td>
<td>$29,156,758.34</td>
<td>$29,156,758.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estimated Carry Forward from FY16 to FY17</td>
<td>$5,372,964.49</td>
<td>$5,484,478.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL Available Funds:</td>
<td>$34,529,722.83</td>
<td>$34,641,236.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Projected Expenditures</td>
<td>$26,044,993.36</td>
<td>$24,138,023.88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Projected Carry Forwards from FY17 to FY18</td>
<td>$8,484,729.47</td>
<td>$10,503,212.61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL:</td>
<td>$34,529,722.83</td>
<td>$34,641,236.49</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Districts were asked to report how the funds were expended. The survey questions as designed by the EOC staff gave districts multiple options for reporting. The survey responses were similar to those in last year’s survey. In the Corrected Responses data, SCDE added another reporting category - Develop 1:1 Computing Initiatives.

- Improving external connections
- Increasing broadband
- Improving internal connections
- Refreshing 1:1 computing (i.e. replacing devices)
- Expanding 1:1 computing (i.e. providing 1:1 devices to more schools or classrooms)
- Develop 1:1 Computing Initiatives
- Funds carried forward from FY 2016-17 to FY 2017-18
- Other
  - Improve security
  - Professional Development to Classroom Teachers
  - Professional Development to Other Educators
  - Technical Assistance for District Technology Staff
  - Other/Explanations

Table 3 reflects how districts reported spending the available funds for technology infrastructure using both data sets. The information is self-reported with no data or invoices to document the results. Section 59-6-110 prohibits the EOC from conducting “fiscal audit functions” of school districts.

Table 3
Fiscal Year 2016-17 Expenditures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Original Responses</th>
<th>Corrected Responses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improve External Connections</td>
<td>$768,470.99</td>
<td>3.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase Broadband</td>
<td>$67,870.17</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improve Internal Connections</td>
<td>$4,704,117.47</td>
<td>18.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refresh 1:1 Computing</td>
<td>$4,087,008.23</td>
<td>15.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expand 1:1 Computing</td>
<td>$9,680,517.73</td>
<td>37.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop 1:1 Computing</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Initiatives</td>
<td>Other Expenditures</td>
<td>$6,737,009.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>TOTAL:</td>
<td>$26,044,994.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Carried Forward to FY2017-18</td>
<td>$8,484,729.47</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 4 documents the Other category of expenditures as reported by districts. It should be noted that the prior year’s survey included comparable Other category identifications as noted in Appendix D. However, in Fiscal Year 2016-17 districts in the *Original Responses* reported spending 26 percent of funds on Other Expenditures, which is significantly more than reported in the prior two fiscal years (Appendix D). It should also be noted that three districts (Aiken, Calhoun and Lexington 1) did seek and were approved waivers by the K-12 Technology Committee to expend K-12 Technology funds on other technology uses. Furthermore, 33 school districts who did not seek a waiver reported expending one hundred percent of their K-12 Technology funds to improve external connections, broadband, internal connections and 1:1 computing.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 4</th>
<th>Other Expenditures</th>
<th>Corrected Responses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Improve Security</td>
<td>$1,503,234.81</td>
<td>$284,508.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional Development to Classroom Teachers</td>
<td>$386,630.90</td>
<td>$265,348.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional Development to Other Educators</td>
<td>$33,107.60</td>
<td>$28,761.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technical Assistance for District Technology Staff</td>
<td>$324,766.76</td>
<td>$64,043.39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other/Explanations</td>
<td>$4,489,269.60</td>
<td>$1,126,607.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL:</td>
<td>$6,737,009.67</td>
<td>$1,769,269.65</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Analyzing the “Other/Explanations data and written comments provided by districts, districts reported spending funds for:

- Teacher and student workstations
- Software and software licenses
- Instructional/content technology
- Computer lab tables
- Salaries and fringe benefits for instructional technologists
- Network infrastructure maintenance
- Travel to technology conferences
- Digital curriculum
- Charter school payments

In Fiscal Year 2016-17 the K-12 Technology Initiative Committee approved waivers from three school districts: Aiken County School District; Calhoun County School District; and Lexington 1
School District. These districts reported spending their Fiscal Year 2016-17 K-12 Technology funds for the following. (Table 5)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Improve External Connections</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase Broadband</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improve Internal Connections</td>
<td>$11,394.68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refresh 1:1 Computing</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expand 1:1 Computing</td>
<td>$130,728.71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop 1:1 Computing Initiatives</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Expenditures</td>
<td>$460,087.59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL:</strong></td>
<td><strong>$602,210.98</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carried Forward to FY18</td>
<td>$1,201,674.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,803,885.13</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Due to the discrepancies in the two data sets, the EOC staff did not analyze how districts intended to expend the carry forward funds in Fiscal Year 2017-18.

Are school districts and schools meeting the three state goals for technology infrastructure?

The Division of Technology Operations within the Department of Administration administers the state’s collective E-Rate applications to leverage federal funds for the continued development of K-12 educational infrastructure. The General Assembly appropriates annually in EIA revenues approximately $12.3 million to support the state match for the E-Rate program for county libraries and public schools. The K-12 Technology Committee is responsible for ensuring the administration of these EIA funds.

Table 6 documents Internet bandwidth to the school districts at the conclusion of Fiscal Year 2016-17 and compares the growth since 2012-13 and since 2015-16. In Fiscal Year 2016-17 no district had less than 200 MBs of bandwidth as compared to 2012-13 when 67 districts had less than 200 MBs of bandwidth and in 2015-16 when 14 school districts had Internet bandwidth of 100 to 150 MBs.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Internet Bandwidth (MBs)</th>
<th>2012-13 # Districts</th>
<th>2015-16 # Districts</th>
<th>2016-17 # Districts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 to 90</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100 to 150</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>200 to 250</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>300 to 350</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>400 to 450</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>500 to 550</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>600 to 900</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,500</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,500</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3,500</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7,500</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>80</strong></td>
<td><strong>80</strong></td>
<td><strong>80</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Not included are the SC Public Charter School District and the Oconee County School District, which are not part of the SC Consortium.

Source: Data provided to EOC by Division of Technology Operations at the South Carolina Department of Administration, August 17, 2017. The 2015-16 information was also updated for one district.
In the 2017 SC Technology Counts Survey, each district or special school answered the following questions for each school under its jurisdiction:

- What percentage of classrooms in this school has access to your school's wireless network? A classroom is defined as "a room with a certified teacher who provides direct instruction to students."
- What percentage of students in your schools is served by 1:1 learning?
- Please provide the total number of devices dedicated for student use.

Districts and special schools responded to each question for 1,195 schools including primary, elementary, middle and high schools as well as career centers.

On classroom access, districts and special schools report that over 99 percent of schools had at least 91 percent of the classrooms with access to the wireless network. (Table 7)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage of Classrooms with Access to Wireless Network</th>
<th>Number of Schools</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0%</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 to 10%</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 to 20%</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 to 30%</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31 to 40%</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41% to 50%</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51% to 60%</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>61% to 70%</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>71% to 80%</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>81% to 90%</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>91 to 100%</td>
<td>1,186</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL:</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,195</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

At the student level, Table 8 documents the percentage of students in a school who were served by 1:1 learning as reported by school districts and special schools. Approximately 40 percent of schools had over 91 percent of students served by 1:1 learning in 2016-17 as compared to 28 percent of schools in 2015-16. (Table 9)
Table 8
Percentage of Students with 1:1 Learning, 2016-17

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage of Students Served by 1:1 Learning:</th>
<th>Number of Schools</th>
<th>Percent of All Schools</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0%</td>
<td>234</td>
<td>19.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 to 10%</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>4.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 to 20%</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>3.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 to 30%</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>4.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31 to 40%</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>5.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41% to 50%</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>6.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51% to 60%</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>6.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>61% to 70%</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>3.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>71% to 80%</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>4.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>81% to 90%</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>1.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>91 to 100%</td>
<td>478</td>
<td>40.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,195</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 9
Percentage of Students with 1:1 Learning, 2015-16

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage of Students Served by 1:1 Learning:</th>
<th>Number of Schools</th>
<th>Percent of All Schools</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0%</td>
<td>335</td>
<td>26.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 to 10%</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>7.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 to 20%</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>5.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 to 30%</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>5.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31 to 40%</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41 to 50%</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>7.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51 to 60%</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>5.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>61 to 70%</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>71 to 80%</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>7.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>81 to 90%</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>1.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>91 to 100%</td>
<td>353</td>
<td>28.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>No Answer</strong></td>
<td><strong>5</strong></td>
<td><strong>0.4%</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,248</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Finally, districts reported that 564,577 devices were dedicated for student use in these 1,195 schools. The average number of devices per school was 472, and the median number of devices, 371.
How many districts sought and received permission from the K-12 Technology Initiative Committee to expend these funds on other technology uses?

In Fiscal year 2017-18 the K-12 Technology Initiative Committee approved waivers from three school districts: Aiken County School District; Calhoun County School District; and Lexington 1 School District.

OVERALL FINDINGS

1. Districts and special schools reported spending in Fiscal Year 2016-17 between $24 and $26 million in K-12 technology funds. The variations are attributed to the different data sets.

2. Based on the Original Responses, as much as three-fourths of the K-12 technology funds were expended for internal and external connections and for 1:1 computing. Another one-fourth of the funds were expended for other technology uses. Data from the Corrected Responses document approximately 7 percent of total expenditures on other technology uses.

3. Of the 82 school districts that reported in the Original Responses, 33 districts reported spending 100 percent of their district allocation on improving internal and external connections and on 1:1 computing.

4. Three school districts (Aiken, Calhoun and Lexington 1) requested and were approved waivers by the K-12 School Technology Initiative Committee to expend their K-12 Technology funds on other technology uses.

5. Regarding the impact of the K-12 Technology funds, districts and special schools reported the following in 1,195 schools:

   - On classroom access, over 99 percent of schools had at least 91 percent of the classrooms with access to the wireless network.
   - Approximately 40 percent of schools had over 91 percent of students served by 1:1 learning in 2016-17 as compared to 28 percent of schools in 2015-16.
   - There were 564,577 devices dedicated for student use in these 1,195 schools.
Appendix A

Proviso 3.6 of the 2016-17 General Appropriation Act

3.6 (LEA: FY 2016-17 Lottery Funding)

Funds appropriated to the Department of Education for the K-12 Technology Initiative shall be distributed to the public school districts of the state, the special schools of the state and the South Carolina Public Charter School District, per pupil, based on the previous year’s one hundred thirty-five day average daily membership, according to the below calculations: (1) For a school district with a poverty index of less than 75: $35 per ADM; (2) For a school district with a poverty index of at least 75 but no more than 85: $50 per ADM; or (3) For a school district with a poverty index of greater than 85 or a special school with no defined poverty index: $70 per ADM. Poverty will be defined as determined for the poverty add on weight in Proviso 1.3 of this Act.

The Department of Education may adjust the per-ADM rates for each of the three classes defined above in order to conform to actual levels of student attendance and available appropriations, provided that the per-ADM rate for each class is adjusted by the same percentage.

Funds distributed to a school district through the K-12 Technology Initiative may only be used for the following purposes: (1) To improve external connections to schools, with a goal of reaching at least 100 kilobits per second, per student in each school by 2017; (2) To improve internal connections within schools, with a goal of reaching at least 1 megabit per second, per student in each school by 2017; or (3) To develop or expand one-to-one computing initiatives.

A school district that has achieved each of the above goals may submit a plan to the K-12 Technology Initiative Committee for permission to expend its allocation on other technology-related uses; such permission shall not be unreasonably withheld and the K-12 Technology Committee must permit districts to appeal any process should a district not receive approval and must provide technical assistance to districts in developing plans should the district request such.

Funds appropriated for the K-12 Technology Initiative may not be used to supplant existing school district expenditures on technology. By June 30, 2017, each school district that receives funding through the K-12 Technology Initiative during Fiscal Year 2016-17 must provide the K-12 Technology Initiative Committee with an itemized report on the amounts and uses of these funds, using a form developed by the Education Oversight Committee. In this report, a school district must provide information on its efforts to obtain reimbursements through the “E-Rate” Schools and Libraries Program administered by the Universal Service Administrative Company. Within its available resources, the K-12 Technology Initiative Committee shall support school districts’ efforts to obtain these reimbursements.
Proviso 1A.84. of the 2017-18 General Appropriation Act

1A.84. (SDE-EIA: Aid to Districts-Technology) Funds appropriated to the Department of Education for Aid to Districts - Technology shall be distributed to the public school districts of the state, the special schools of the state and the South Carolina Public Charter School District, per pupil, based on the previous year’s one hundred thirty-five day average daily membership, according to the below calculations: (1) For a school district with a poverty index of less than 75: $35 per ADM; (2) For a school district with a poverty index of at least 75 but no more than 85: $50 per ADM; or (3) For a school district with a poverty index of greater than 85 or a special school with no defined poverty index: $70 per ADM. Poverty will be defined as determined for the poverty add on weight in Proviso 1.3 of this Act.

The Department of Education may adjust the per-ADM rates for each of the three classes defined above in order to conform to actual levels of student attendance and available appropriations, provided that the per-ADM rate for each class is adjusted by the same percentage.

Funds distributed to a school district may only be used for the following purposes: (1) To improve external connections to schools, with a goal of reaching at least 100 kilobits per second, per student in each school by 2017; (2) To improve internal connections within schools, with a goal of reaching at least 1 megabit per second, per student in each school by 2017; or (3) To develop or expand one-to-one computing initiatives.

A school district that has achieved each of the above goals may submit a plan to the K-12 Technology Committee for permission to expend its allocation on other technology-related uses; such permission shall not be unreasonably withheld and the K-12 Technology Committee must permit districts to appeal any process should a district not receive approval and must provide technical assistance to districts in developing plans should the district request such.

Funds appropriated may not be used to supplant existing school district expenditures on technology. By June 30, 2018, each school district that receives funding during Fiscal Year 2017-18 must provide the K-12 Technology Committee with an itemized report on the amounts and uses of these funds, using a form developed by the Education Oversight Committee. In this report, a school district must provide information on its efforts to obtain reimbursements through the "E-Rate" Schools and Libraries Program administered by the Universal Service Administrative Company. Within its available resources, the K-12 Technology
Appendix B
2016-17 Funding Manual Published by SC Department of Education

REVENUE 3630 K–12 TECHNOLOGY
SUBFUND 963 SPECIAL REVENUE FUND

Allocation Formula

Funds will be allocated based on per pupil, based on the previous year’s one hundred thirty-five day average daily membership, according to the below calculations: (1) For a school district with a poverty index of less than 75: $35 per ADM; (2) For a school district with a poverty index of at least 75 but no more than 85: $50 per ADM; or (3) For a school district with a poverty index of greater than 85 or a special school with no defined poverty index: $70 per ADM.

Note: The K–12 Technology Partnership Committee’s core membership includes a representative from the State Department of Education (SCDE), State Department of Administration’s Division of Technology Operations (DTO), Education Oversight Committee, SC State Library, and SCETV. Additional membership includes representatives from private partners representing the telecommunications and Internet-provider communities.

Funding is dependent on decisions made by the K–12 Technology Committee and should be considered non-recurring dollars. This funding is not flexible and must be spent for technology infrastructure as outlined in these guidelines; however, the funds may be carried over into FY 2017–18 should the need arise.

Legal Reference

General Appropriations Act for 2016-2017, Proviso 3.6, and Proviso 1.3

Guidelines

Expenditures made with these funds should support the local implementation of the South Carolina Educational Technology Plan, the district technology plan, the district strategic plans and school renewal plans. Purchases should take into account issues projected in long-range plans such as the application of technology to teaching and learning. Funds are to be used for technology infrastructure in the support of educational initiatives such as 1:1 computing, digital learning, high speed connectivity, Wi-Fi enhancement, and online testing. K-12 Technology funds may not be used to supplant existing school district expenditures on technology.

Each district must submit and receive approval of its district technology plan, including technology professional development plans and standards, by the Office of Total Quality Management in the SCDE prior to expenditure of these funds.
Additionally, districts are required to complete an annual online school district technology inventory site survey for the preceding school year. This survey must be completed for each year in which funds are received or expended, and as prescribed by the SCDE.

If either of these requirements is not currently met by the district, the district is not authorized to expend these funds. Failure to comply with either of these requirements can result in the return of these funds by the district. The SCDE has the right to assess the use of the funds at any time during the fiscal year.

To ensure the maximum impact in each school, the following guiding principles for allowed purchases should be considered. Purchases should

- provide for any hardware, software, or connectivity that is necessary to ensure extended connectivity and use of the dedicated telecommunications lines of the state network;
- supplement but not supplant the existing or projected school and district technology budgets;
- reflect equitable distribution of funds throughout the district;
- reflect planning by a broadly representative committee within the district; and
- match technologies to the local need, considering the fact that all technologies, video equipment, computers, network switches and routers, servers, wireless access hardware, cabling, and others are appropriate uses for these funds.

Responsible Office: Chief Information
Office Contact: Don Cantrell, 803-734-3287
E-Mail Address: dcantrell@ed.sc.gov
## Appendix C

### Allocations of K-12 Technology Funds

#### FY2016-17

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Appendix D

Fiscal Year 2014-15 K-12 Technology Initiative Funds

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### Fiscal Year 2015-16 K-12 Technology Initiative Funds

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