



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: October 9, 2020
To: Chief School Administrators, Charter School and Renaissance School Project Leads
Route to: ESEA Directors, Directors of Special Education, School Business Administrators
From: Martin Egan, Director
Office of Grants Management
Division of Finance
Deadline: October 15, 2020

Bridging the Digital Divide Grant Application – Update

To support the need for New Jersey students to have reliable internet connectivity and access to digital devices, the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) released a [Digital Divide Grant](#) application on July 22, 2020. Due to the period of availability of funds, the grant opportunity was limited to a three-month period and, as such, **reimbursement requests for these funds must be submitted no later than October 15, 2020** to the Office of Grants Management through the NJDOE's [Electronic Web Enabled Grant System \(EWEG\)](#) webpage.

NJDOE recognizes that some school districts have experienced issues with securing digital devices due to issues with the available supply. The [U.S. Department of Treasury issued guidance](#) for states and local governments which recognized this difficulty and allowed for payments from the Coronavirus Relief Fund in instances in which there is a delay in delivery beyond the school district's control.¹ Therefore, school districts are not required to wait until digital devices are received in order to submit reimbursements and should not delay in submitting reimbursements. Prompt submissions will ensure that all funds are benefitting New Jersey students.

For questions or additional information regarding the Digital Divide Grant application process, contact the NJDOE's Office of Grants Management at eweghelp@doe.nj.gov.

c: Members, State Board of Education
Kevin Dehmer, Interim Commissioner of Education
NJDOE Staff
Statewide Parent Advocacy Network
Garden State Coalition of Schools
NJ LEE Group

¹ The guidance states in relevant part, "[s]imilarly, in recognition of the likelihood of supply chain disruptions and increased demand for certain goods and services during the COVID-19 public health emergency, if a recipient enters into a contract requiring the delivery of goods or performance of services by December 30, 2020, the failure of a vendor to complete delivery or services by December 30, 2020, will not affect the ability of the recipient to use payment from the Fund to cover the cost of such goods or services if the delay is due to circumstances beyond the recipient's control."