Date: September 16, 2020

To: Chief School Administrators, Nonpublic School Administrators

Route To: School Business Administrators

From: Jessani Gordon, Director of Interdistrict School Choice & Nonpublic School Programs

Division of Finance

Deadline: Notify nonpublic schools as soon as possible, and no later than September 22, 2020

COVID-19 Technology Funds for Nonpublic Schools

The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) recognizes that during the COVID-19 public health emergency, it is critical for all New Jersey students, including those attending nonpublic schools, to have access to the digital devices necessary for remote instruction. To support this effort, the NJDOE is pleased to announce the release of COVID-19 Technology Funding for Nonpublic Schools by way of their responsible local education agencies (LEAs).

The COVID-19 Technology Funds for Nonpublic Schools are funded by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF), and are provided solely for the purchase of 1:1 instructional devices (e.g., Chromebooks, iPads, hotspots) for nonpublic school students.

LEA responsibilities

LEAs will be required to notify their nonpublic school administrators of the grant allocations, posted on the Department's Nonpublic School website under <u>Announcements & Updates</u>, no later than five days after receipt of this memo, to consult with their nonpublic schools on the use of funds, and to place orders in a very compressed time period. *The funds must be encumbered or expended no later than October 31, 2020.* Any funds not encumbered or expended by that time must be returned.

Accounting and Uses of Funds

CRF funds provided for Technology Funds for Nonpublic Schools will be accounted for in the NJDOE's Electronic Web Enabled Grant System (EWEG). This is a payment-only program. All requests for reimbursement will be processed through the EWEG reimbursement process. Districts must consult with their nonpublic schools located within their district boundaries to determine use of funds. Funds may only be used for the purchase of 1:1 instructional devices for nonpublic school students and must be recorded as follows:

Revenues:

• Federal funding under the CRF for Nonpublic Technology should be recorded in fund 20 in the 4500 series, account 20-45xx, Restricted Grants from the Federal Government through the State – CRF Technology. This will be collected on line 825 Other Revenue from Federal Sources.

Expenses:

• Expenses for the nonpublic technology funds under the CRF will be recorded in fund 20 in new program code 512 in functions and objects as applicable (20-512-xxx-xxx). New line 88095 has been created to collect the total of this program. Please be advised that this nonpublic allocation is being made using federal funds and must be encumbered or expended no later than October 31, 2020. Any funds not encumbered or expended by that time must be returned.

Allocations by Nonpublic School

Nonpublic schools grant allocations have been posted on the Nonpublic School website under <u>Announcements & Updates</u>. The allocations are based on the nonpublic school enrollments submitted in the Nonpublic Enrollment Report.

Contact information

For questions or additional information regarding the COVID-19 Technology Funds for Nonpublic Schools, contact Constance Webster at Constance.Webster@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
Nonpublic School Advisory Committee