

Personalized Digital Learning Initiative

Background Information: Proviso 1.82 (quoted below) has procedures for placing digital instructional materials on a list and getting district allocations of "funds appropriated for digital instructional materials." Proviso 3.5 (partially quoted below) appropriates \$ 4 million, but as #15 on the list of lottery money, it is not certain that these funds will be available for digital instructional materials.

Proviso 1.82 requires application by **August 15**, and remaining money will be allocated on January 15, 2014.

1.82. (SDE: Digital Instructional Materials) Utilizing the funds appropriated for digital instructional materials, the Department of Education shall determine a per pupil amount using the prior year's 135 ADM. These funds shall be made available to all school districts using the following procedure:

- (1) The Department of Education shall create a digital instructional materials list composed of those items which have been requested by districts and that have received Board approval;
- (2) Districts may request that the State Board of Education review digital instructional materials for inclusion on the list when the material has been reviewed by the district, received approval by the local board of trustees for use in its district and been found to reflect the substance and level of performance outlined in the state adopted grade specific educational standards, contain current content information, and are cost effective;
- (3) Within 30 days of receiving the request, the State Board of Education must approve or disapprove the district's request. Those materials receiving approval shall be placed on the department's approved digital instructional materials list. Once items are placed on the approved list, all districts may choose items from that list; and
- (4) On a form provided by the department, a district may request an allocation by denoting the number of students, grade level, and subject for which the digital materials will be used. Districts may only request digital materials in one subject area and may not receive textbooks for the students using digital materials in that subject area.

District requests must be submitted to the State Board of Education for consideration **not later than August 15 of the current fiscal year**. Any funds appropriated for digital instructional materials which have not been encumbered by **January 15**, shall be distributed to school districts which have not previously received an allocation. These districts shall receive a per pupil allocation which must be used for technology infrastructure needed to prepare the district for using digital instructional materials. These funds shall not be subject to flexibility.

3.5. (LEA: FY 2013-2014 Lottery Funding) ...

For Fiscal Year 2013-2014 certified net lottery proceeds and investment earnings and any other proceeds identified by this provision are appropriated as follows:

(15) Department of Education--Digital

Instructional Material..... \$4,000,000;

If the lottery revenue received for Fiscal Year 2013-2014 is less than the amounts appropriated, the projects and programs receiving appropriations for any such year shall have their appropriations reduced on a pro rata basis, except that a reduction must not be applied to the funding of LIFE, HOPE, and Palmetto Fellows Scholarships.

Purpose:

Loris Middle School and Whittemore Park Middle School will be utilizing digital instructional materials for science; however, hard copy textbooks will be ordered for these schools for the current year due to the need for a resource to use first semester, prior to the issuance of personal learning devices. Additional schools may decide to utilize digital instructional materials in the future.

For additional information: Contact Cindy Elsberry at 488-6717.

Recommended Action: No action is recommended at this time.