

BOARD AGENDA ITEM

June 9, 2020

SUBJECT:

Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) Grant Funding

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

On March 27, 2020, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act was signed into law. Congress set aside approximately \$13.2 billion of the \$30.75 billion allotted to the Education Stabilization Fund for the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund. The estimated allocation for Aiken County Public Schools is 6.6 million dollars, of which a portion will be allocated to charter schools and private schools based on their participation in federal programs.

Due to COVID-19 and school closures, the district implemented distance learning through a hybrid of printed packets and online resources. Because of limited access to technology, many students have been unable to access educational content. Additionally, some teachers lack the technology to work from home on lesson planning and delivery.

On May 12, 2020, the school board approved the use of CARES funding for the use of technology to implement a 1:1 digital learning initiative for students in grades 6-12 to include devices, security tracking software, protection devices, extended warranties, and additional licenses for our current Learning Management System.

ADMINISTRATIVE CONSIDERATION:

After review of our current plan and the availability of resources, administration is requesting to expand the purchase of devices to the designated elementary grades.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Approve the administration to move forward with applying for CARES Act funding for the use of technology to implement a 1:1 digital learning initiative for designated elementary grades.

PREPARED BY:

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