

BOARD AGENDA ITEM

May 12, 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.

ADMINISTRATIVE CONSIDERATION:

COVID-19 revealed the need to provide students a more equitable way to access learning beyond the traditional school setting. Therefore, the school district administration met with representatives from various departments to discuss the challenges and benefits regarding the purchase of additional technology, and unanimously agreed with the State Department's recommendation to purchase and provide technology for students and teachers to use for teaching and learning.

The anticipated total cost to support the purchase of devices, security tracking software, protection devices, extended warranties, and additional licenses for our current Learning Management System would not exceed the funds allocated through the CARES Act.

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 students in grades 6-12.

PREPARED BY:

Shawn D. Foster
Jeanie Glover