

AN ACT establishing the Bridging the Digital Divide in Schools Grant Program and supplementing chapter 6 of Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes.

BE IT ENACTED *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:*

1. a. There is established in the Department of Education the “Bridging the Digital Divide in Schools Grant Program.” The purpose of the program shall be to allocate grant moneys to school districts, charter schools, renaissance schools, and nonpublic schools to provide or expand access to technology and technological equipment, such as laptops, tablets, hot spot access devices, and other electronic mobile devices, for students who do not have the means to purchase such items or who do not have access to the Internet at home.

b. A grant received by a school district, charter school, renaissance school, or nonpublic school shall be specifically used for the purchase of, or for reimbursement of the school district’s or school’s purchase of, technology and technological equipment including, but not limited to, laptops, tablets, hot spot access devices, and any other electronic mobile devices that can be used by students in the school district or school for the furtherance of their education either in the school setting or at home.

2. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Education such amounts as are necessary to effectuate the provisions of this act, subject to the approval of the Director of the Division of Budget and Accounting in the Department of the Treasury, to be credited to the “Emergency Fund.”

3. This act shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

This bill establishes the “Bridging the Digital Divide in Schools Grant Program” in the Department of Education. The purpose of the program will be to allocate grant moneys to school districts, charter schools, renaissance schools, and nonpublic schools to provide or expand access to technology and technological equipment, such as laptops, tablets, hot spot access devices, and other electronic mobile devices, for students who do not have the means to purchase such items or who do not have access to the Internet at home.

A grant received by a school district, charter school, renaissance school, or nonpublic school will be specifically used for the purchase of, or for reimbursement of the district’s or school’s purchase of, technology and technological equipment including, but

not limited to, laptops, tablets, hot spot access devices, and any other electronic mobile devices that can be used by students in the district or school for the furtherance of their education either in the school setting or at home.

Establishes Bridging the Digital Divide in Schools Grant Program in DOE to provide and expand access to technology and equipment for students in certain school districts.