

General Instructions for participating in the Virginia e-Learning Backpack Initiative using Virginia Public School Authority (VPSA) Supplemental Grant Funds

The 2013 General Assembly authorized the Virginia e-Learning Backpack Initiative for eligible divisions to support schools that are not fully accredited.

Eligible school divisions are required to use VPSA supplemental grant funds to provide a tablet or laptop computer device using the \$400 per student grant allocation. An additional grant of \$2,400 is available for qualifying schools to purchase two content creation packages for teachers.

Schools are eligible to receive these grants for a period of up to four years beginning in FY 2014 and shall not be eligible to receive a separate award in the future once the original award period has concluded. Schools that are fully accredited or that are new schools with conditional accreditation in their first year shall not be eligible to receive this supplemental grant.

If selecting a tablet, please look to the future when students may be able to take Standards of Learning (SOL) tests using tablets. Mrs. Shelley Loving-Ryder, assistant superintendent of assessment and school improvement, spoke at the eLearning Backpack Summer Institute mentioned the results of pilot projects using tablets for SOL testing and plans for future pilots. A copy of the presentation is located on the [eLearning Backpack Web page](#).

Required local match:

School divisions that receive the eLearning Backpack supplemental grants shall use the 20 percent match funds in qualifying schools to purchase tablet or laptop computer devices for ninth-grade students reported in fall membership and content creation packages for teachers.

For example, a qualifying school with 100 - ninth graders:

100 students times \$400 = \$40,000 plus \$2,400 for content creation software - \$42,400.00

Add the 20 percent local match - In the example the grant of \$42,400 would have a local match of \$8,480 bringing the total available for that school to \$50,880.00.

In addition, participating divisions (schools) will be expected to fund the required apps, textbooks and software at whatever costs go above the grant and local match.

Procedure for Submitting Supplemental Grant Applications:

Please complete all appropriate sections of the Educational Technology Notes Supplemental Grant Application for the eLearning Backpack Initiative.

For your convenience, links to contract and vendor information are listed on the [eLearning Backpack Web page](#).

NOTE: If the qualifying school received approval for supplemental funding from series XI, XII, or XIII grants but has not yet requested full reimbursement in accordance with the approved grant, the new e-Learning Backpack supplemental grant application will be held for approval pending the completed reimbursement of the previous grant(s).

Please e-mail the completed file containing the signatures of the school principal or designee and the school division superintendent or designee to mark.saunders@doe.virginia.gov so that the approval process can begin before the hard copy arrives at the Virginia Department of Education. Mail a hard copy of the signed application to:

Mark R. Saunders, Director

Office of Technology and Virtual Learning

Virginia Department of Education

P. O. Box 2120

Richmond, Virginia 23218-2120

If you have questions/concerns related to the supplemental grants and/or the application process, please contact Mark R. Saunders at (804) 786-0307. For any questions related to the school improvement plan and this grant, please contact:

Susan FitzPatrick, Ph.D.

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