



Richard Woods, Georgia's School Superintendent  
"Educating Georgia's Future"

Georgia Department of Education  
Item for State Board of Education Approval  
– Grant –

**Item Name**

SI-Grant - FY20 Title I, Part A, 1003 School Improvement Digital Learning Competitive Grants

**Recommendation – Action Item**

It is recommended that the State Board of Education authorize the State School Superintendent to award a grant to Local Educational Agencies (LEA) with schools identified as Targeted Support and Improvement and Comprehensive Support and Improvement that have applied for a Digital Learning Grant at a cost not to exceed \$21,578,236 in Federal Funds for digital learning needs.

**Supports the Following Education Goal or Goals in the Agency Strategic Plan**

- Increase the percentage of K-5 students with a strong knowledge of foundational skills and concepts.
- Increase the percentage of high school students who graduate ready for enrollment, employment, or enlistment.

**Rationale**

The purpose of the Digital Learning Grant is to provide opportunities for identified schools to compete for funds to address digital learning needs. Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, public school buildings are closed and districts have shifted to digital learning to ensure the safety of students and staff. To support schools and districts with newly identified digital learning needs, the GaDOE is offering the Digital Learning Grant. This competitive grant will support equity and access to the necessary tools and resources for digital learning and provide opportunities for school staff to stay connected with students. The grant provides additional funds to help federally identified schools focus their efforts to increase student achievement.

**Details**

**Objective:** To provide additional financial resources to Title I Targeted Support and Improvement and Comprehensive Support and Improvement schools and districts.  
**Grant Recipient:** 55 School Districts  
**Grant Amount:** \$21,578,236  
**Funding Source:** Federal Funds  
**Grant Period for Recipient:** April 1, 2020 to September 30, 2021  
**Renewal:** N/A  
**Budget History (minimum of three years):** N/A

**Performance**

**Describe how the grant will be monitored to ensure satisfactory performance:** Schools receiving Title I, Part A, Section 1003 Digital Learning Grants will be monitored by Program Managers, District Effectiveness Specialists and School Effectiveness Specialists to ensure that program quality is maintained throughout the duration of the grant. Additionally, budgets must be submitted through the LEA Consolidated Application and are approved by program staff in the School and District Effectiveness Division and the Georgia Department of Education Grants Accounting Division before LEAs are allowed to request reimbursement through the Grants Accounting Online Reporting System (GAORS). Fiscal monitoring occurs during the budget approval process and through cross-functional on-site monitoring

visits. In addition, GaDOE School and District Effectiveness personnel provide ongoing technical assistance to ensure that funds are spent in accordance with federal guidelines and targeted areas for growth. All grantees must submit a final report to the GaDOE's Division of School and District Effectiveness by September 30, 2021.

**Performance, criteria, and results:** Progress is determined by schools meeting established federal programmatic and fiscal monitoring and reporting compliance criteria. GaDOE staff will analyze the impact of evidence-based interventions on student outcomes and regularly communicate the results to the Local Educational Agency (LEA). Cross-functional monitoring, as well as the LEA's self-monitoring, is conducted using a set of compliance indicators that are both cross-cutting and program specific. Noncompliance in any area requires the LEA to submit a corrective action plan for review and approval by the applicable GaDOE program staff. All documentation, including outcomes, are maintained by the GaDOE in the secure MyGaDOE on-line portal. Student achievement outcomes inform targeted technical assistance to the LEA on programming and use of funds.

**Performance Metrics:** Each LEA reports on expenditures for each authorized activity for which funds were expended. Local Educational Agencies will document progress on the measurements of interim progress and accountability indicators outlined within the grant application. Local Educational Agencies will implement evidence-based interventions outlined in the grant application which is aligned to the LEA's identified digital learning needs. Additionally, progress on identified goals and accountability indicators are reviewed by RESA and GaDOE School and District Effectiveness staff. The compliance measures that LEAs must meet include, but are not limited to, the application process, financial management, procurement, inventory management, time and effort, allowability, record retention, program oversight, and audit resolution.

## Summary

### Scope of Grant:

The Title I Section 1003 School Improvement Digital Learning Grant provides financial resources to Local Educational Agencies on behalf of Title I schools identified as Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) or Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI) schools as defined by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The Division of School and District Effectiveness at the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) will award competitive one-year, non-renewable grants to Local Educational Agencies on behalf of identified schools to meet the digital learning needs outlined in their comprehensive needs assessment.

### Purpose of Grant:

The purpose of the Digital Learning Grant is to provide opportunities for identified schools to compete for funds to address digital learning needs. Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, public school buildings are closed, and districts have shifted to digital learning to ensure the safety of students and staff. To support schools and districts with newly identified digital learning needs, the GaDOE is offering the Digital Learning Grant. This competitive grant will support equity and access to the necessary tools and resources for digital learning and provide opportunities for school staff to stay connected with students.

### History:

#### How the Grant Recipient was Selected:

- Formula Grant
- Competitive Grant (FOGA Number 160-1-4-298)

**Describe the grant process:**

The Title I Section 1003 School Improvement Digital Learning Grant Request for Application was sent to all Local Educational Agencies that have federally identified schools. Local education agencies submitted applications by April 17, 2020. Applications were reviewed by a team using the provided checklist. Applications were scored and notification of intent to award grants pending board approval will be sent April 24, 2020.

**Contact**

Dr. Stephanie Johnson, Deputy Superintendent of School Improvement