

2021-22 FCC Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF) Grant, Window 3

Grant Overview: The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has established the Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF) Program with a \$7.17 billion appropriation from Congress. ECF awards will provide funding to schools and libraries for laptop and tablet computers, Wi-Fi hotspots, routers, modems, and broadband Internet connections for use by students, school staff, and library patrons at locations that include locations other than a school or library. The district has received an award of \$3,002,861.26 for all categories above, as well as two broadband buildout projects in areas of the district without access to broadband.

ECF funds have not been fully awarded, resulting in a Window 3 request period for additional projects. Window 3 grants will support eligible purchases and services between that grant period of July 1, 2022, and June 30, 2023.

The administration has submitted an application that would request funding extensions for its existing ECF awards that provide students with access to broadband, as well as a second broadband buildout project, for an additional \$2,836,428.24.

Amount of Award: \$2,836,428.24

Due Date/Notification of Award: May 13, 2022. Notification in August 30 2022.

Alternatives if not Awarded: Complete ECF-funded projects as planned.

WCSD Resources Required: None.

Administrative Recommendation: That the Board of School Directors instructs the administration to submit an application to the Emergency Connectivity Fund, Window 3 to support extensions of its previously approved ECF projects providing broadband to students, as well as an additional broadband buildout proposal to provide broadband in those areas that lack commercially available broadband.