

Press from:

The New Providence School District
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Date: June 30, 2022



For Release: TapInto

Submitted by: New Providence School District

Subject: New Providence School District receives \$239,000 technology grant from the FCC.

The New Providence School District is pleased to announce that it has received a grant in the amount of \$239,740 from the FCC Emergency Connectivity Fund. The grant is a reimbursement for technology purchases during the Covid-19 pandemic. Mr. Alex Menard, Manager of Information Systems, and Mr. James Testa, School Business Administrator, worked together to identify technology purchases (supported by the operating budget and not funded by any grants) that could be submitted based on the grant requirements.

The grant process entailed answering detailed questions about availability of technology in the school district at the start of the pandemic. During the 2020-2021 school year, the District provided 2,336 students with a connected device because they otherwise would not have had a connected device that was sufficient to engage in remote learning. An additional 26 students were provided with either a broadband connection or both a connected device and broadband connection.

This summer, the District purchased 580 student iPads for students in grades 1,5 and 9 so that all students will have an iPad for use at home for the 2021-2022 school year. An additional 130 iPads were also purchased for teachers to be able to work with their students.

All students in New Providence School District now have access to a connected device and/or a broadband connection and connected device that is sufficient to engage in remote learning. The grant funding will be allocated to surplus and be part of the 2023/2024 budget cycle.

The FCC's Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF) is a \$7.17 billion program that helps schools and libraries provide the tools and services their communities need for remote learning during the COVID-19 emergency period. Congress authorized the Emergency Connectivity Fund as part of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. The ECF Program covers the reasonable costs of laptop and tablet computers; Wi-Fi hotspots; modems; routers; and broadband connectivity purchases for off-campus use by students, school staff, and library patrons.