



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## GOVERNOR'S COVID-19 LEARN FROM HOME TASKFORCE



March 27, 2020

Dear Superintendent,

As you have likely heard, Governor Ned Lamont on Tuesday announced two philanthropic donations intended to help Connecticut Alliance Districts by providing resources to support students learning at home due to the global COVID-19 pandemic. These donations include the gift of up to 60,000 laptops to high school students by the Partnership for Connecticut as well as more than 185,000 high-quality, Scholastic book-kits by the Nooyi Family for prekindergarten to 8<sup>th</sup> grade students.

Eligibility in this program is limited to high schools across the 33 Alliance Districts who serve significant populations of students who are eligible for free or reduced-price meals, and laptop distribution will prioritize students demonstrating the most need; however, if the needs are met for these eligible high schools and there is remaining inventory and resources, then program eligibility may expand to include high schools beyond the Alliance Districts where more than 40% of students qualify for free or reduced-price meals, and laptop distribution will prioritize students demonstrating the most need.

It is important to underscore that we don't anticipate the first wave of laptop delivery arriving until the end of April or early May at the soonest. This means that districts looking to take advantage of any remaining inventory would need to wait until eligible Alliance Districts were appropriately outfitted.

To facilitate the distribution of these donations, Governor Ned Lamont and State Department of Education (SDE) Commissioner Miguel Cardona have created the Governor's COVID-19 Learn from Home Task Force, who will be responsible for coordinating a process for superintendents of the Alliance Districts to opt-in for donations and to ensure a safe and efficient distribution process of these learning devices and materials to districts and families across the state. The application for opting in is designed to be concise and easy to complete. Additional guidance to eligible districts is forthcoming.

### **Laptop Distribution**

Districts will opt into the distribution program and priorities will be set based upon logistical preparedness for distribution, safety, and need.

Districts will opt into this program at the individual school level through an application process. Participating districts will retain ownership of the laptops to help close persistent opportunity gaps and support future cohorts of students.

Delivery of ready-to-distribute laptop devices are intended to be direct to school locations, and arrival dates will be tiered. Earliest deliveries are expected to be in late April or early May.

## Scholastic Material Distribution

The Task Force will coordinate with superintendents from Alliance Districts to establish a smooth, efficient, and safe distribution process to ensure that books arrive to school distribution sites in a timely manner, that families receive proper communication, and pick-up procedures abide by social-distancing protocols.

Scholastic materials will be delivered to participating schools in approximately two weeks.

Like you, we appreciate the efforts of Governor Lamont and Commissioner Cardona as well as the generous donations made by the Partnership, the Dalio Family and the Nooyi Family. Likewise, we appreciate the generosity, cooperation and logistical support offered by Scholastic.

We look forward to working with you to get these learning devices and materials into the hands of Connecticut students efficiently and expediently.

Sincerely,



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