



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

PUBLIC UTILITIES REGULATORY AUTHORITY

PEGPETIA EDUCATIONAL GRANT GUIDANCE

The Authority has received inquiries regarding the scope of the term “education technology initiatives” as it is used in Connecticut General Statutes (Conn. Gen. Stat.) § 16-331cc(b) regarding the allocation of grant funds from the public, educational and governmental programming and education technology investment (PEGPETIA) account. The Authority has not previously addressed this specific issue, and therefore, offers the following guidance to applicants.

The term “education technology initiatives” is not defined in the PEGPETIA statute, but the General Assembly has expressed its understanding of education technology through Chapter 61a of Title 4d of the General Statutes, which is entitled “Education Technology” and establishes a committee to implement state-wide education technology goals. In particular, under Conn. Gen. Stat. § 4d-80(c)(2), the General Assembly articulated the following education technology goals:

- (A) Connecting all institutions of higher education, libraries, public elementary and secondary schools, regional educational service centers and other parties through a state-wide high speed, flexible network that will allow for video, voice and data transmission;
- (B) Wiring all school classrooms and connecting them to the Internet and to the state-wide high speed network through wired, wireless, or any other digital transmission technology providing high speed connectivity;
- (C) Providing access for all public schools, public libraries and libraries at institutions of higher education to a core set of on-line full text resources and to the ability to purchase collaboratively for other collections in order to maximize buying power;
- (D) Ensuring, in cooperation with the State Board of Education, competency in computing skills by the sixth grade for all students;
- (E) Ensuring competency in specific computing skills and the integration of technology into the curriculum for all public school teachers; and
- (F) Ensuring that institutions of higher education offer a wide range of course and degree programs via the Internet and through other synchronous and asynchronous methods.

In addition, the Commission for Education Technology (CET) has issued a number of reports and guidance documents. On June 26, 2017, the CET released its “State Education Technology Goals and Plan, 2017–2022.” In the plan, the CET identified three core focus areas of (1) digital learning, (2) infrastructure, and (3) data and privacy.

In light of these expressly stated goals and core focus areas related to education technology, the Authority will interpret the term “education technology initiatives” as applying to projects that advance or are consistent with at least one of these goals or focus areas. Applicants seeking funding for education technology initiatives should, in Part III, Section 1 of the Application, explain how the proposed project satisfies this interpretation and qualifies as an education technology initiative. If necessary, entities that have already submitted applications may submit a supplemental filing explaining how the proposed project qualifies as an education technology initiative.

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