

Discounted Computers and Internet Access for Students

This Act creates a program to offer discounted computers and Internet access to public school students and students in home education programs in grades 5 through 12. It requires the state department of education to negotiate terms with computer manufacturers, certain nonprofit corporations, and broadband Internet access providers. It requires the state board of education to adopt rules, including rules for provision of technical training to students. The Act directs a state digital divide council to implement a pilot project to assist low income students with purchasing discounted computers and Internet access services. It requires the council to identify eligibility criteria for participation in the pilot project; and provides for funding and authorizing the council to accept grants to implement the pilot project.

Submitted as:

Florida

Chapter 137 of 2006

Status: Enacted into law in 2006.

Suggested State Legislation

(Title, enacting clause, etc.)

1 Section 1. [*Short Title.*] This Act shall be cited as “An Act Relating to Discounted
2 Computers and Internet Access for Students.”

3
4 Section 2. [*Program to Offer Discounted Computers and Internet Access for Students.*]

5 (1) There is created a program to offer computers and Internet access at a discounted price
6 to students enrolled in grades 5 through 12 in a public school, including a charter school, or a
7 home education program in the state.

8 (2) The [department of education] shall negotiate with computer manufacturers and with
9 nonprofit corporations that obtain reconditioned computer hardware concerning:

10 (a) the prices of discounted computers and whether computer accessories such as
11 printers or scanners will be offered to the students at reduced prices.

12 (b) specialized software and hardware packages, including, but not limited to:

13 i. a word processor.

14 ii. software and hardware necessary to enable broadband Internet access.

15 iii. an operating system.

16 (c) the type of warranty that is to be provided to the students and whether an
17 extended warranty will be available to the students and under what terms.

18 (3) The [department of education] shall negotiate with broadband Internet access
19 providers concerning the prices of discounted broadband Internet access packages. In areas in
20 which broadband Internet access is not currently available, the [department] shall negotiate with
21 non-broadband Internet access providers.

22 (4) The [state board of education] shall adopt rules concerning:

23 (a) how to integrate into this program the provision of computer or technical
24 training to students in their respective school districts.

25 (b) how to notify parents and students about the discounted computers and Internet
26 access availability.

27 (c) the distribution of eligibility certificates to the students, the locations at which
28 discounted computers and Internet access services are available for purchase, and how students
29 may obtain and pay for the equipment and services covered by this program.

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31 Section 3. [*Pilot Project: Discounted Computers and Internet Access for Low-Income*
32 *Students.*]

33 (1) A [Digital Divide Council] established under [insert citation], in consultation with the
34 [department of education], shall implement a pilot project to assist low-income students to
35 purchase discounted computers and Internet access services as negotiated by the [department].
36 The [Council] shall identify counties, grade levels, and low income eligibility criteria for
37 participation in the pilot project.

38 (2) The pilot project shall be funded in an amount to be determined in the [General
39 Appropriations Act]. The [Digital Divide Council] is authorized to accept grants from additional
40 public and private sources to implement the pilot project.

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42 Section 4. [*Severability.*] [Insert severability clause.]

43

44 Section 5. [*Repealer.*] [Insert repealer clause.]

45

46 Section 6. [*Effective Date.*] [Insert effective date.]