

April 8, 2013

Dr. Melody Schopp, Secretary
SD Department of Education
800 Governors Drive
Pierre, SD 57501

Letter of Intent Regarding Legislation Approved in the 2013 Session

Dear Secretary Schopp:

This Letter of Intent sets forth a particular view held by the Joint Committee on Appropriations in approving your appropriation in the 2013 Legislative Session. As such, it supplements that appropriation with a specific policy guideline as approved on March 25, 2013.

While the guideline does not have the direct force of statutory law, it rests solidly on a long-standing tradition of Legislative-Executive relationships in South Dakota and it will be used by the Joint Committee as one basis for the fiscal oversight of your agency and its continued funding.

The 2013 South Dakota Legislature approved a \$500,000 one-time appropriation to the Department of Education to provide K-12 technology upgrades to local school districts for the 2014 school year.

It is the intent of the Interim Joint Committee on Appropriations that the funds be distributed based on guidelines and criteria established by the Department of Education, and shall include the following:

- 1) Any funds not awarded and expended by June 30, 2014 will revert to the general fund.
- 2) No more than a total of \$20,000 will be granted to any one school district.
- 3) Grants are to be awarded based on the financial need of the school district and their dependency on technology in offering a diversified curriculum. Criteria may include the district's reserve accounts as well as a scoring matrix developed by the Department of Education as part of the grant approval process.

- 4) School districts will develop a technology budget and be expected to match the grant funds up to 30% of the project total.
- 5) Grant applications are to be received no later than June 15, 2013 and will be evaluated by the Department and the Bureau of Information and Telecommunications. If funds remain after the initial round of grant awards, the Department of Education may establish subsequent funding rounds.
- 6) To reduce individual grant costs the Department is encouraged, where appropriate, to aggregate purchases across districts, leverage economies of scale for discounts and seek competitive pricing for the combined purchases.
- 7) The Department shall provide the following information for each grant award: 1) School District Name; 2) Grant Award Amount; 3) Date of Grant Award; 4) Amount Distributed To-Date; 5) District's Proposed Use of Funds; and 6) Amount of Matching Funds Provided By The District. The information shall be provided to the committee on December 15, 2013. If any funding remains after December 15, 2013, the Department shall provide an updated report during the 2014 Legislative Session. The Department shall advise the 2014 Joint Committee on Appropriations in the event it deems it appropriate to encumber the funds for expenditure in FY15.

In addition, it is also expected that you will be prepared to address this guideline in your FY15 budget presentation to the Joint Committee next January.

Thank you for your cooperation.



Representative Fred Romkema
Co-Chair, Interim Joint Appropriations



Senator Deb Peters
Co-Chair, Interim Joint Appropriations

cc: Marty Guindon, Auditor General
Jason Dilges, Commissioner, Bureau of Finance and Management