FAQs

What is TEACH?

The Technology for Educational ACHievement (TEACH) is a program in the Wisconsin Department of Administration (DOA), Division of Enterprise Technology (DET) (s.16.99, Wis. Stats). The DOA works in cooperation with school districts, cooperative educational service agencies, charter schools, libraries, secured juvenile correctional facilities, private colleges, tribal colleges, the technical college system board, and the board of regents of the University of Wisconsin System to promote the efficient, cost-effective procurement, installation, and maintenance of educational technology. TEACH services began in October 1997. The program is funded through the State **Universal Service Fund**.

What is the purpose of this Information Technology Infrastructure Grant?

Per s. 16.996, Wis. Stats, TEACH Information Technology Infrastructure grants are available to provide technology infrastructure to improve the capacity of school districts to utilize technology for instruction. Up to $7,500,000 is available for rural school districts that have 13 or fewer students per square mile. Districts that have the greatest percentage of free or reduced-price lunch will be given funding priority.

What is my district's maximum award amount?

- If the membership of the eligible school district is fewer than 750 pupils, $30,000.
- If the membership of the eligible school district is 750 pupils to 1,500 pupils, $40 multiplied by the school district's membership.
- If the membership of the eligible school district is more than 1,500 pupils, $60,000.

(Link to Eligibility chart on teach@wi.gov)

What are 1a and 1b funding?

Funding 1 includes items on List 1 – Infrastructure & Services Eligible for TEACH Information Technology Infrastructure Grant. The following entities are eligible to apply:

1a) Rural school districts who have applied for 2016 USAC Federal E-Rate Category 2 (CAT2) Infrastructure & Services;

1b) Rural school districts who did not apply for USAC Federal E-Rate CAT2 Equipment that submit an IT plan.

For 1a and 1b the TEACH Information Technology Infrastructure grant will reimburse 100%, less the E-Rate discount rate. See Table 1 - E-Rate Category 2 (CAT2) Rural Discount Rates.

Example: If an eligible district has an E-Rate discount rate of 60%, then the TEACH Information Technology Instructure Grant would fund 40% of their infrastructure costs.)

How do I determine what my district's discount rate is?
Discount rate information can be found in the following locations: 1) eligible districts list on the teach@wi.gov website and 2) "District Data tab" of the Infrastructure Grant Application (Excel Workbook).

Which has the highest funding priority, 1a or 1b?
1a and 1b are **equal** in funding priority.

If a district applies for 1a - E-rate Infrastructure funding, can they also apply for 1b funding?
Eligible districts may apply for funds under 1a and/or 1b.

What happens if districts have the same free or reduced-price lunch percentage in the event there are no more funds available? How will funding priority be assigned?
Funds would be prorated for those districts.

How will TEACH Technology Information Infrastructure grants be distributed?
Grants will be awarded in order of greatest percentage of free or reduced lunch price per s. 16.996, Wis. Statutes.

Are assessments of technology needs a reimbursable item?
Fees associated with preparing to submit or complete the TEACH application such as assessment of technology needs are not reimbursable under the TEACH Information Technology Infrastructure grant. See List 1 - Infrastructure & Services Eligible for TEACH Information Technology Infrastructure Grant.

Can grant funds be used to install wireless access outside of district buildings, i.e. on school buses and in student and staff homes?
No, out-of-building student and staff internet access is not reimbursable under this grant. Only items on List 1 – Infrastructure & Services Eligible for TEACH Information Technology Infrastructure are eligible.

What happens if the assessment is that a district is not ready for the infrastructure they have applied for?
If a district is assessed (Readiness Rubric) as not being ready to utilize a specific piece of infrastructure they have applied for, then that piece of infrastructure will not be funded this fiscal year. Other infrastructure they are assessed as being ready for will be funded. DOA has the responsibility to ensure that the TEACH Information Technology Infrastructure funds are distributed judiciously. Although a district may not be considered ready for a piece of infrastructure at the time of application, DOA encourages districts to leverage E-Rate CAT1 and CAT2 funding to increase their level of readiness.

What if a district already has an IT plan, can they submit it in lieu of the 1b- IT Plan?

Districts applying for 1b funding *must* complete and submit the 1b Application - IT Plan. Referencing an attached IT plan on the 1b Application - IT Plan is not acceptable. Districts may use another IT Plan to assist them in providing answers for the TEACH 1b Application – IT Plan. In any case, the 1b Application – IT Plan must be **completely** filled out.

Can infrastructure purchased during FY17 prior to the grant application deadline be included on the grant application, i.e. purchased July 1, 2016 – November 11, 2016?

Infrastructure purchased prior to the application deadline during fiscal year 17 may be included on the grant application as long as it is appears on List 1 – Infrastructure & Services Eligible for TEACH Information Technology Infrastructure Grant.

What is the deadline for making purchases?

Grantees must purchase approved items within 2 years of the *grant award* date.

The statute says up to $7.5 million. How much funding is DOA prepared to distribute?

DOA is prepared to award and distribute up to $7.5 million to eligible applicants to improve the capacity of school districts to utilize technology for instruction in the state of Wisconsin.

Can I purchase infrastructure not listed on List 1 - Infrastructure & Services Eligible for TEACH Information Technology Infrastructure Grant?

No, only items on List 1 can be purchased under the TEACH Information Technology Infrastructure Grant.

My district would like to purchase more than 8 different types for infrastructure and/or services. The applications only allows for 8 entries. What should I do?

Complete the applications/IT plan and enter information for the first 8 types of infrastructure and/or services. Print and save the "1a or 1b application tab." Continue entering information for the remaining types of infrastructure and/or services for your district, printing and saving them until you have entered them all.