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## **State Department of Education Announces \$10 Million Technology Grant for Schools**

(Hartford, CT)—The State Department of Education today announced a second round of technology grants to help Connecticut school districts put more computers in classrooms and increase internet bandwidth. This \$10 million investment comes at a critical juncture when schools throughout the state are using the Connecticut Core Standards and will deliver new computer-adaptive tests aligned to these standards.

“Computer technology is increasingly integral to the teaching and learning process in our state,” said Education Commissioner Stefan Pryor. “Building upon previous investments, this grant program will help our districts provide our teachers and students with greater access to state-of-the-art classroom technology.”

Already, teachers across the state are applying the Connecticut Core Standards in their classrooms. The Connecticut Core is a new set of expectations for what students should know and be able to do at each grade level so that they graduate ready for college and careers. While the standards set the bar for student learning, local teachers and educators still determine how students are taught. The development and selection of lesson plans and curriculum remain a local decision.

With the implementation of this new set of standards, a new test is needed to provide educators and parents with an academic snapshot. This helps to determine if a student is on-track to meeting these new student-learning goals in English language arts and math and if the student might need extra help. The 2014-15 academic year marks the first year that all school districts in Connecticut will administer the

computer-based tests, the Smarter Balanced assessment system, and not the CMT or CAPT assessments for English language arts and math.

“Thanks to the thoughtful and insightful input of the Governor’s Common Core Taskforce, the Department gained a clear perspective regarding what our teachers and districts needed most during the transition,” said Chief Academic Officer Dr. Dianna Roberge-Wentzell. “While this grant represents the completion of the last taskforce recommendation for the state, our commitment to support our educators and to prepare all students to succeed in college and careers continues.”

This round follows \$24 million in technology grants distributed in July 2013 to 128 applicants from 126 cities and towns across Connecticut.

Interested local school districts are required to apply for the grant through a competitive request for proposals (RFP) process. Funding must be used for the purposes of purchasing new computing devices, inter-school bandwidth, or inter-district bandwidth. Awards will be dependent on an applicant’s ability to meet the submission requirements and will be determined in accordance with a town wealth measure based on a 20 percent-80 percent sliding scale.

Proposals must be received by Friday, February 13, 2015.

For complete details of the RFP: [#813](#).

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