DIGITAL EDUCATION REVOLUTION - NSW

Principals
High and Central Schools,
and Schools for Specific Purposes

GUIDANCE FOR SCHOOLS WITH STUDENTS WITH A DISABILITY TO APPLY FOR FLEXIBLE FUNDING OR AN ALTERNATIVE LAPTOP THROUGH THE DIGITAL EDUCATION REVOLUTION – NSW PROGRAM.

Advice has been provided by Digital Education Revolution – NSW (DER-NSW) that schools with students with a disability can consider information and communications technology other than the standard DER netbook.

Reference

Specific information can be found on the DET website at https://detwww.det.nsw.edu.au/deptresources/majorprojects/dernsw/policies/index.htm

While the majority of students with a disability in Year 9 will be supported by the standard DER netbook, there may be some students for whom a more flexible approach may be more appropriate or necessary.

There are now three alternatives available.

- The standard Lenovo netbook with additional software installed or
- The Lenovo 15” laptop with the same suite of software on the netbooks plus additional programs installed required for access to the standard DER software suite.
- $500 alternative funding allocation,

If the rollout computer can be used with additional software installed, this must be the first preference.

The Lenovo 15” is available for:

- Students with a visual impairment who require magnification software which was not appropriate due to the small screen on the DER netbook or
- Students with physical disabilities who require the larger computer due to the size of the keyboard on the netbook.

These students would be using the suite of software installed on the netbooks on the same basis as their peers. The additional software installed should provide access to the DER software suite already installed. Consultation with stakeholders supporting these students should take place to ensure appropriate technology is provided.

Intensive testing of suitable software programs that operate within the standard operating environment has been completed by the DER team. Those programs are listed on Attachment C. A list of the software programs that the student requires needs to be provided. This is the software the student ordinarily uses to access the
Digital Education Revolution 2011-2012

The allocation or purchase of additional software to support student’s access is the responsibility of schools. Schools will be required to provide the software or make application through their regional disability programs officer.

The following table is a guide to assist decision making for those eligible regular or special schools which have students with a disability for whom standard computer equipment might not satisfy their learning needs.

**Identification of needs**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Access and Participation issue/s</th>
<th>Task/s relating to the issue/s</th>
<th>Setting/s</th>
<th>Strategies and/or equipment to enable the task/s</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The broad areas of activity that the student needs to do to access and participate in teaching and learning activities. These are likely to fall within the areas of: • Communication, including written and oral • Manipulation of materials</td>
<td>The specific task/s that the student needs to do in these broad areas of activity for teaching and learning. This information will help in focusing on the actions that need to be performed or supported for the student to enable their access and participation.</td>
<td>Where the task/s will be performed both now and in the future. This information will inform decisions and planning about the types of strategies that will be appropriate to support the student.</td>
<td>Taking into account the setting/s and the issues to be considered, what potential strategies and/or equipment may be needed to enable access and participation in identified teaching and learning activities?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Suggested alternate technology to be purchased from the flexible funding allocation.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ICT Equipment</th>
<th>Cost (approximate)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Touch screens</td>
<td>$500 – $2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interactive whiteboards</td>
<td>$2,500 – $10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Data Projectors</td>
<td>$1,000 – $2,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Software programs</td>
<td>$250 – $2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tablets/Slates</td>
<td>$500 – $3,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Notetakers (DANA, NEO)</td>
<td>$500 - $1,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Other access equipment, mouse and keyboard alternatives and switches are available through alternative funding programs and should already be in place for students in year 9.
It is a requirement that for those students, who will access information and communications technology other than standard computer equipment, consultation with parents or carers must occur, and this is to be recorded on Attachment A. This should be retained in the school.

The proformas Specific Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Requirements for students with disability (Attachment B) and DER Alternative Laptop/Software (Attachment C) should be forwarded to Peter Skinner, Technology Coordinator (Relieving), in Disability Programs by email Peter.Skinner@det.nsw.edu.au or by fax to 9266 8527 by close of business on Friday the 16th of September 2011.

For funding or alternative laptops to be provided in a timely manner it is essential for schools to submit their responses by the due date. It may not be possible to provide flexible funding after this time.

Should you have any enquiries about this process, please contact Peter Skinner in Disability Programs Directorate on 9266 8532.

Thank you for your cooperation with this important task which will ensure that all students have access to appropriate information and communications technology to support their learning needs.

Brian Smyth King  
DIRECTOR, DISABILITY PROGRAMS  
9 August, 2011
Attachment A
This form is to be reproduced on school letterhead.

DIGITAL EDUCATION REVOLUTION - NSW
Students with Disabilities
Parent/carer consent form

Provision of information and communications technology other than a standard laptop computer.

There is an opportunity for schools with students with a disability to adopt a more flexible approach to the provision of information and communications technology.

This flexibility enables schools to consider alternate technologies to the standard laptop computer and also gives schools the opportunity to consider pooling the available funds to purchase specific information and communications technology appropriate for a student with a disability; and may support more appropriately the curriculum needs of a number of students.

Where schools deem it appropriate to obtain information and communications technology different to the standard laptop computer, it is a requirement that parents/carers are fully consulted about the alternate technology. It is the principal's responsibility to arrange for parents/carers to consider the school's information and communications technology proposal for their child and, if in agreement, complete the form below.

The completion of this form confirms that consultation has occurred between the parent/carer and the school about the type of information and communications technology support to be made available; and that the technology support provided will, in the main, remain the property of the school.

I have discussed my child's information and communications technology needs with the school principal and understand that

_________________________________________________________(full name of child) in Year ___

at ______________________________________(name of school) will not receive a standard laptop computer as part of the Digital Education Revolution program but will instead access their information and communications technology needs through: (please specify)

______________________________

Full name of parent/carer: ______________________________

Signature _________________________________     Date________________
Attachment B

Specific Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Requirements for students with a disability

Name of School: ________________________________

This document should be attached to your school’s ICT plan.
Specific types of ICT equipment required for students with a disability:

This technology will assist students with a disability to access a digital education by:

The learning outcomes for students with a disability through accessing the specific ICT equipment will be:

Calculation of the portion of funding to purchase specific ICT equipment for students with a disability in Year 9 in 2012:
1. The number of students in Year 9 in 2012 with a disability that require specific ICT equipment is _______

2. This number multiplied by $500 is _______

_____________________________ School will use $ ______ (1) to purchase ICT equipment, other than standard computer equipment, for students with a disability.

Please specify what particular specific ICT equipment and the number and cost of each piece of equipment you wish to purchase for your school.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specific type of AT (unit)</th>
<th>Number of units (a)</th>
<th>Unit Cost ($b)</th>
<th>Total unit cost (a x b = $)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Example: Smartboard</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>$8 000</td>
<td>$8 000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. The total must match the amount calculated in number 2 above (schools may make up balance if they wish to purchase equipment which costs more than the allocated amount.)

Please return by email to: Peter.Skinner@det.nsw.edu.au or fax to 9266 8527 by Friday, 16th September 2011