



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number:20-4452

Agenda Item Number: 7.

Agenda Date: 8/3/2020

In Control: Early Childhood Education Municipal Development Corporation Board of Directors

DEPARTMENT: Pre-K 4 SA

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Sarah Baray, Ph.D.

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

iPads and Broadband Internet Service for Remote Learning

SUMMARY:

This item requests Board action to approve the purchase of 800 iPads and broadband internet services in an amount not to exceed \$447,600.00; and appropriates funding from the FY 2021 Pre-K 4 SA fund balance in an amount not to exceed \$489,800.00, for all previously ordered iPads and new purchases, to support remote learning in response to COVID-19.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Due to the uncontrolled spread of COVID-19 throughout Bexar County, Pre-K 4 SA announced on July 17, 2020 that in-person instruction would be delayed, and classes for the 2020-2021 academic year would begin on August 17, 2020 with 100% remote learning. This decision was made in consultation with Pre-K 4 SA's advising physician, whose guidance is consistent with the broader medical community in recommending that implementation of in-person classes be delayed until community spread has stabilized. This is also consistent with a health directive issued by the San Antonio Metro Health Medical Director on July 17, 2020, requiring that schools not re-open for on-campus, face-to-face instruction until after September 7, 2020.

When in-person instruction does resume, classroom capacity will be capped at 50% (250 per center, 1,000 total). The remaining 1,000 seats will be reserved for remote learning. The cap of 50% in-person enrollment aligns not only with strategies for minimizing potential spread of COVID-19, but also with requests from families. When families were surveyed about their plans for the upcoming year, roughly 50% requested in-

person instruction and 50% indicated they'd prefer a remote instruction option. Over the last several weeks, the Pre-K 4 SA enrollment team has been contacting families directly to confirm their instructional preference for the fall semester. A majority of families that indicated an interest in the remote learning option have also indicated a need for a device to support remote learning from home.

Pre-K 4 SA has approximately 100 iPads in its current inventory, and placed an order for 100 additional iPads through ITSD on July 28, 2020 at an amount of \$42,200. This cost of already ordered iPads is included in overall funding appropriation amount. An additional 800 devices and broadband internet service are needed to support the 1,000 students Pre-K 4 SA anticipates enrolling remotely.

None of the iPads currently owned by Pre-K 4 SA or that will potentially be purchased by Pre-K 4 SA include data packages (i.e., the iPads are 'WiFi only'). While some Pre-K families have access to in-home broadband internet that will provide the iPads with the connectivity needed to for remote instruction, some families still need access to broadband in their homes. As a result, Pre-K 4 SA intends to assist families in need of broadband internet services through direct payment to the service provider, which would end on or before June 31, 2021.

Item	Quantity	Price
iPads (purchased on 7/28/2020)	100	\$42,200.00
iPads (to be purchased)	800	\$337,600.00
Internet (TBD – estimated based on AT&T \$10 rate, assumes 11 months of service)	Up to 1,000 households	\$110,000.00
	Total	\$489,800.00

ISSUE:

This item requests approval to purchase 800 iPads and broadband internet services in an amount not to exceed \$447,600.00; and appropriate funding from the FY 2021 Pre-K 4 SA fund balance in an amount not to exceed \$489,800.00, for all previously ordered iPads and new purchases, to support remote learning in response to COVID-19.

ALTERNATIVES:

If the Board does not approve the purchase of iPads and broadband internet access, and associated funding appropriation, Pre K 4 SA families requesting remote instruction for the Fall of the 2020-2021 school year may be able to participate in the Pre-K 4 SA program.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This item authorizes Pre-K 4 SA to purchase 800 iPads and broadband internet access in an amount not to exceed \$447,600.00. Additionally, this item appropriates funding from the FY 2021 Pre-K 4 SA fund balance in an amount not to exceed \$489,800.00, for all previously ordered iPads and new purchases, to support remote learning in response to COVID-19.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval to purchase 800 iPads and broadband internet services in an amount not to exceed \$447,600.00, and approval to appropriate funding from the FY 2021 Pre-K 4 SA fund balance in an amount not to exceed \$489,800.00, for all previously ordered iPads and new purchases, to support remote learning in response to COVID-19.