



#277-21

**Commonwealth of Virginia
Virginia Department of Education
Superintendent's Memo #277-21**

DATE: September 24, 2021
TO: Division Superintendents
FROM: James F. Lane, Ed.D., Superintendent of Public Instruction
SUBJECT: **Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF), 2nd Window Opening, September 28, 2021 to October 13, 2021**

Due to the ongoing demand to support virtual learning, the [FCC has announced it will open a second Emergency Connectivity Fund \(ECF\)](#) program application window for schools. Schools are once again eligible to request funding for connected devices and broadband connections for off-campus use by students and school staff for the 2021-22 school year. During the opening of the first window, from June 29, 2021 to August 13, 2021, Virginia school divisions applied for \$62 million in ECF funding to meet virtual learning needs. Currently, the Universal Services Administrative Program (USAC), is still processing these applications to determine funding commitments. If school divisions were unable to apply during the first application window, the second window affords the opportunity to do so. Moreover, schools that need additional equipment beyond what they requested in the first application window may submit a new application in this second round for additional funds.

The second application filing window will open on September 28, 2021 and close on October 13, 2021. During this window, school divisions can submit requests for funding to purchase eligible equipment and services between July 1, 2021 and June 30, 2022 to meet the remote learning needs of students and school staff. Funding is available for the purchase of laptops, Chromebooks, tablets, Wi-Fi hotspots, modems, routers, mobile service on buses (not restricted to community use of parked buses), and broadband connections for off-campus use

by students and school staff. The funding is available to support off-campus learning, such as homework, even if schools have returned to full time, in-person instruction.

For more information

For more information on the ECF program, please contact Dr. Susan M. Clair, K-12 Information Technology Coordinator, at Susan.Clair@doe.virginia.gov or via phone at (804) 786-9281.

JFL/SMC/wb

- Resource: [Emergency Connectivity Fund Frequently Asked Questions](#) (PDF)