



## Quality Education Fund e-Learning Funding Programme— Provision of Mobile Computer Devices and Internet Services Support



Education Bureau

### Background and Objectives

The Quality Education Fund (QEF) has implemented a three-year "e-Learning Funding Programme—Provision of Mobile Computer Devices and Internet Services Support" (Funding Programme) starting from the 2021/22 school year for public sector primary and secondary schools (including special schools) and Direct Subsidy Scheme (DSS) schools to apply for funding to purchase mobile computer devices and Internet access facilities for loan to needy students. It aims to ensure that students with financial needs are equipped with the necessary equipment for e-learning so that schools can effectively implement a blended mode of learning and teaching under the "new normal" for facilitating learning and teaching.

### Application Requirements of Schools

Public sector primary and secondary schools (including special schools) and DSS schools meeting the following requirements are eligible to participate in the Funding Programme:

- (i) schools implement e-learning to support the blended mode of learning and teaching under the "new normal", and students are required to use their personal mobile computer devices for learning at schools or at home; and
- (ii) schools will arrange for the loan of mobile computer devices and related equipment to eligible students.

### Student Beneficiaries

Students beneficiaries include:

- (i) those receiving subsidies under the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) from the Social Welfare Department;
- (ii) those receiving full grant/half grant of the School Textbook Assistance Scheme (STAS) from the Student Finance Office; or
- (iii) those with limited economic means identified by schools. If students' families face financial difficulties but are not receiving CSSA or STAS due to special circumstances, they may provide schools with explanations or supplementary information. The Education Bureau (EDB) provides quota for schools to identify students with actual needs according to school-based criteria.

Student beneficiaries should not have received similar government assistance before, including the Community Care Fund Assistance Programme. For special cases, e.g. arrangement when students change schools, schools can consult the EDB.

### Level and Use of Disbursement

The amount of subsidy would be disbursed to schools in two parts:

#### (i) "Basic Funding"

School can apply for the "Basic Funding" for each eligible student once during the three-year implementation period, at a maximum of \$4,700 per student, for purchasing the following items:

- a mobile computer device with three-year warranty;
- a mobile device management system; and
- basic accessories for meeting learning needs.

#### (ii) "Additional Funding"

Schools can apply for "Additional Funding" for purchasing the followings for each financially needy student who are unable to acquire appropriate Internet services due to the constraints in their living environment:

	Products	Maximum Amount
First year	Portable WiFi router and mobile data card	\$800
Each year thereafter	Mobile data card for each year	\$450

### Application Procedures

Schools could download the application form from the website of the EDB, and return the completed form to the IT in Education Section, the EDB during the application period. Eligible students have to submit their eligibility proof and reply slips signed by their parents to their schools. After confirming students' eligibility, schools could procure equipment required. Upon completing the procurement procedures, schools should submit the list of student beneficiaries and the documents of products to the EDB. The EDB will disburse the required funding of relevant equipment to schools. Schools can lend the equipment to eligible students according to their school-based arrangements.

### Enquiry

IT in Education Section, the EDB

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