



Educational Consortium for
Telecommunications Savings

Received & Inspected

DEC 20 2010

FCC Mail Room

December 14, 2010

Commission's Secretary
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: EDU2011 Pilot Program
WC Docket No. 10-222

To Whom It May Concern:

We're the e-rate consultants for the St Marys City School District in Ohio, and I am enclosing their application to participate in the EDU2011 pilot program.

As you can see from their documentation, the school district has been using this technology for two and a half years now, and is well placed to evaluate the effectiveness of the off-campus usage of this technology.

Thank you for your consideration, and please contact Kyle Menchhofer, the Technology Coordinator at the school district, if you have further questions about their application. His e-mail address is Kyle.Menchhofer@smriders.net, or he can be reached at phone number 419-394-4312.

Yours truly,

Robert Beck
E-Rate Consultant for St Marys City School District

Certified Return Receipt Nr: 7010 0290 0003 3634 8200

St. Marys City Schools

Administrative Offices:
100 West Spring Street
St. Marys, OH 45885-2312
Phone: 419-394-4312
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<http://www.smriders.net>



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Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street S.W.
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To Whom It May Concern,

St. Marys City Schools are applying for the E-Rate deployed ubiquitously (EDU) 2011 Pilot Program. St. Marys City Schools have been using mobile technology in the classroom for the past two and a half years. St. Marys City Schools has attached the following information answering questions and providing information about the current Mobile Learning in the Classroom Project. The district has already filed the Form 470 to begin the application process for next school year, and the district will file the requisite Form 471's during the filing window.

Thank you for your consideration for this program.

Sincerely,

Kyle Menchhofer
Technology Coordinator
St. Marys City Schools

Attachments

Superintendent
Mary Riepenhoff
419-394-4312

Treasurer
Thomas S. Sommer
419-394-4312

Director of Instruction
Bill Steinbrunner
419-394-4312

Business Manager
Kurt S. Kuffner
419-394-7278

Board of Education
Rees McKee, President
Craig Gottschalk, Vice President
Aaron Braun
Lisa Tobin
Ralph Wiley

(1) a full description of the current or planned Applicant Wireless Program, including but not limited to:

a. the nature of the Applicant Wireless Program, including the extent to which the use of connectivity is interactive and utilizes the Internet,

St. Marys City Schools have been using broadband internet provided by Verizon Wireless for the past two years to access the internet on the smart phones (aka mobile learning devices) on site. The students use the internet as a highway to sending the assignments to a web server where the teachers can log onto the server and grade the assignments. Cell phone service and texting have been disabled. Teachers can create activities/ assessments on any computing device and send the information to the student mobile learning devices. The students can sync the downloaded information to their personal mobile learning devices. The students can use the mobile learning devices to send information over the internet to a web server as well as use the devices to access the internet for research on a project/activity.

b. how long the Applicant Wireless Program has been in operation and the mobile wireless device(s) being used,

The mobile learning program originally started in the 2008-2009 school year in grades 3-5 with 140+ students using personal digital assistants (PDAs) and a portable access point to connect the PDAs via WiFi to the district network. The program increased the number of students and teachers during the 2009-2010 school year in grades 3-6. There were over 575+ smart phones used in the classrooms and 70+ PDAs. The St. Marys City Schools used the Verizon Wireless network as well as the district's local area network via the portable access point. In 2009-2010, St. Marys City Schools were the largest school in the country implementing 640+ mobile learning devices in the classrooms. The plan for the 2010-2011 school year is to implement over 800 mobile learning devices in the classrooms in grades 3-7. St. Marys City Schools are the longest running mobile learning program program in the country (3 years).

c. a description of any technical issues associated with implementing the Applicant Wireless Program, including an analysis of any problems with the availability of wireless access to students or patrons off the school or library premises and how those issues are being or will be addressed by the school or library,

The cost of purchasing access points throughout the district to provide a complete wireless network is very expensive for the St. Marys City Schools. The increased number of devices using the local wireless network will cause additional strain on the bandwidth provided by the district. With the additional traffic on the network, the network administrator will have to dedicate more time to monitoring the network and the flow of internet traffic. The district has two and a half technology staff members. The district does not have the local funding to hire additional technology staff to help with the various technology issues that occur throughout the district on a daily basis.

St. Marys City Schools has over 37% of the students that are on free and reduced lunch in grades K-12. In the St. Marys Intermediate building where all students have an mobile learning device, the elementary building has almost 42% of the students on free and

reduced lunch. These are the same families that can't afford updated computers with internet access. St. Marys is a rural district and many of the students live outside of the city limits and don't have access to high speed internet. The only way the rural students and socioeconomically disadvantaged students get access to the internet is at St. Mary City Schools. It is so important that all students regardless of their socioeconomic status or the location of their houses have access to high speed internet.

St. Marys City Schools are using the content filter provided by Verizon Wireless. The district is working very closely with Verizon Wireless to monitor what the students are able to access via the internet. Student safety is of the utmost importance to St. Marys City Schools and Verizon Wireless. St. Marys City Schools' Technology Department and Verizon Wireless are working very closely together to make sure that the students of the district remain safe from inappropriate sites and follow the guidelines provided by USAC.

d. what training has been or will be provided to teachers, librarians, students or parents to implement the Applicant Wireless Program, and

The teachers have been provided up to four full days of training. The training covers basics of using the mobile learning devices, lesson development, internet safety, and administration guidelines of using the software. Teachers meet once a month during the school year to share information. The technology department meets with the parents to discuss the acceptable user policy using, student safety, CIPA, content filter, and expectations using the mobile learning devices throughout the school year.

e. the extent to which the Applicant Wireless Program is integrated with federal, Tribal, state, regional or local governmental or non-profit initiatives to achieve educational or community access outcomes;

There are no other programs in the area that replicate this type of mobile learning initiative to achieve educational or community access outcomes.

(2) the poverty level based on the percentage of students eligible for a free or reduced-price lunch under the national school lunch program (NSLP) or a federally approved alternative mechanism, and the current discount rate of the school or library;

The poverty level break down is as follows: St. Marys Intermediate School (grades 3-5) 41.68% and the St. Marys Memorial High/Middle School (grades 6-12) 30.80%. The district overall receives an approximate 60% e-rate discount on the various telecommunication services.

(3) the financial need of the school or library, including any additional budgetary hardships, notwithstanding the school or library's current discount rate;

The financial need of the school is to help the district with the cost of the broadband internet charges. The district has over 950 desktop computers and laptops located throughout the district. The district has developed a five year recycle plan for all computers. With district expenses increase in all areas, it is hard to maintain the five year cycle for due to increase costs to the district and reduction in government funding. The district tries to stay current with the application software that resides on the computers. Maintaining and updating the software is becoming more and more difficult due to the memory size of the software and the cost to renew the software. The mobile learning devices are of no cost to the district due to the government pricing agreement. The cost of software is very minimal compared to desktop software. More freeware is available for the mobile devices which

(4) all costs, including those eligible for E-rate support and those not eligible for E-rate support, associated with implementing the Applicant Wireless Program, including but not limited to costs for equipment such as e-readers or laptops, access and connection charges, teacher training, librarian training, or student/parent training;

Costs are the following:

- **Broadband Internet - \$34.99/month/device (1,000 devices)**
- **GoKnow Software (Software for the mobile learning devices) - \$60/year (1,000 devices)**
- **Professional Development training for teachers and administrators - \$16,000 + travel expenses for hands-on professional development (8 days are recommended), \$5,000 – (2 hour webinar, 8-10 sessions are recommended)**
- **Equipment is free of charge due to government pricing**

(5) the committed school or library resources available to implement the entire Applicant Wireless Program, including whether those funds are from the school or library's general budget or from an outside funding source;

The resources available to help with the program come from School District General Funds, Portion of Student Technology Fee, Parent-Teacher Organization, Fund Raising Program, Recycle Program Donation, Community Foundation Donation, Local VFW Donations, and Service Club Organization Donations.

(6) the effect EDU2011 support for off-premise connectivity is likely to have upon the school's or library's projects;

There will be a positive effect on the students' learning. All students will have access to the same resources. The playing field has been leveled with same access to current equipment, current software, and 3G (soon to be 4G) broadband internet speed. Students that miss school due to illness will be able to access class assignments at home and complete assignments in a timely manner. Parents and guardians will have the ability to view what their child is doing at school by viewing the mobile learning device. St. Marys City Schools has opened lines of communication between students

and parents because the students like using the devices. The students want to share what they are doing at school with their parents. With the ability to access the internet at home, St. Marys City Schools has created a classroom without walls and would allow the students to have access to information 24/7.

(7) an analysis of the cost-effectiveness of the current or planned Applicant Wireless Program as compared to the use of other types of technology that would also meet the Program's objectives;

There is very limited cost-effectiveness because the district cannot afford to purchase a computing device for every student and provide high speed internet service at the students' homes. WiFi internet access at school is very expensive with all of the equipment purchases as well as paying the salary and benefits of a network administrator. The district doesn't have the funds to purchase laptops for all students due to the poverty level of many of the students in the district that do not have to pay student fees due to their economic status at home. There is not enough physical space in the school buildings to provide numerous computer labs for all teachers and students to have equal access. St. Marys City Schools are working with service providers to lower monthly costs for broadband internet services.

(8) any relevant technology planning documents and, if applicable, a statement of long-term objectives for the Program;

The district has implemented the mobile learning project in its current technology plan which runs through 2012. The district continues to add a grade level each year. The long range goal is to provide all students in grades 3-12 with a mobile/portable computing device.

(9) a description of the specific measures taken, or that will be taken, to ensure compliance with the Children's Internet Protection Act and measures to protect against waste, fraud, and abuse; and

St. Marys City Schools are using the content filter provided by Verizon Wireless. The district is working very closely with Verizon Wireless to monitor what the students are able to access via the internet. Student safety is of the utmost importance to St. Marys City Schools and Verizon Wireless. St. Marys City Schools' Technology Department and Verizon Wireless are working very closely together to make sure that the students of the district remain safe from inappropriate sites and follow the guidelines provided by USAC. St. Marys City Schools are investigating third party software to monitor internet traffic on the students' mobile learning devices.

(10) a description of internal policies and enforcement procedures governing acceptable use of the wireless devices used in the Program off the school or library's premises.

The acceptable user policy is described in the St. Marys City Schools Technology Plan and was adopted by the St. Marys City Schools Board of Education. During a meeting

with the students and parents, the acceptable user policy is reviewed. Both the students and parents sign an agreement which states the policy as well as the measure(s) for punishment if the device is used inappropriately.

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(1) the location of the school

St. Marys City Schools – 100 W. Spring Street, St. Marys, OH 45885

St. Marys McBroom Junior High School – 2250 St. Rte. 66 N, St. Marys, OH 45885

St. Marys West Elementary School – 1301 West High Street, St. Marys, OH 45885

(2) the name of the school applicant, along with a complete list of the individual schools that will be served, including their billed entity numbers;

St. Marys City Schools *BEN 130164*

St. Marys McBroom Junior High School – BEN 51024

St. Marys West Elementary School – BEN 51021

(3) a description of the school district or school, including the type of school, such as private, public, charter, or other special type of school;

St. Marys City Schools are a rural district. It is a public K-12 institution with an enrollment of 2,129 students.

(4) a description of the Program's curriculum objectives, the grade levels included, and the number of students and teachers involved and/or being served as part of the program; and

The major goal of the mobile learning project is to provide every third through eighth grade student with the most current technology and software available. St. Marys City Schools will continue to follow the state specified curriculum objectives and the state standards for Ohio. The technology mission for St. Marys City Schools is to provide opportunities for students to participate in a positive learning environment and prepare the students for the future. The mobile learning project will effect close to 1,000 students and sixty staff members.

(5) a summary of any data collected by the school on Program outcomes and achievement of Program objectives.

At this point in time, St. Marys has seen an increase in the Ohio Achievement Assessment in the math area. Teachers are continuing to work hard in developing curriculum in the other content areas. The teachers have seen an increased engagement by the students in all subject areas. A positive learning environment has been created and maintained over the past three years.

St. Marys City Schools

Handheld Computer Acceptance Use Policy

St. Marys City School teachers are very excited in providing the opportunity for our students to participate in the Mobile Learning Technology Education Project. Upon teacher discretion, participating students will be loaned a XV6800 smart phone computer for use at school, home or anywhere else the student may need it for learning.

Please understand that prior to taking the handheld computer home, students will be instructed in and evaluated on proper use and care. A checkout form is attached outlining the condition of the unit and requiring signatures of students and parents. The handheld computers come with a one year warranty. In addition, students will be made aware that all aspects of the St. Marys City Schools Technology Acceptable Use Policy apply to the use and care of the handheld computer/smart phone.

Please review the following guidelines and conditions with your student and to insure that he/she adheres to them.

1. The handheld computer is to be treated as a valuable object. It will not be thrown, purposely dropped, or hit. It will never be placed on the roof or hood of a car, on the sidewalk or street, or imperiled in any way that may cause it to be crushed or thrown to the ground.
2. The handheld computer will never be left unattended on the bus, in the cafeteria, in the gym or any other public place.
3. The handheld computer will not be used in near proximity of water, household chemicals, or other liquids that could damage its electronic components.
4. When carried outside it will be protected from the environment in such a way to prevent rain, snow, ice, excessive heat, and/or cold to damage it.
5. The handheld computer will only be used with a genuine stylus or keyboard. Pencils, erasers, pen tips, and other pointed object will never be used in place of a stylus.
6. The handheld computer will be kept away from pets, younger, and older siblings at all times.
7. At the end of the time frame, parents and students agree to return the XV6800 smart phone computer and all components included to St. Marys City Schools in the same condition it was issued to the student.

Every student participating agrees to reimburse St. Marys City Schools for the cost of repair or replacement for any damage or loss of any or all components issued to the student to neglect or failure to abide by the above guidelines and conditions. This includes the XV6800 USB cable, AC adapter, and the stylus. The costs incurred will not exceed the original cost of the device and its accessories. This liability shall not exceed \$489.99.

St. Marys City Schools
Handheld Computer Usage Agreement

Student Name _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Email Address _____

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The St. Marys City Schools will provide smart phone computers to the selected classes. Upon teacher and parent discretion, the students will be allowed to keep the handheld computers with them at school and/or at home.

Parents/students agree to return the smart phone computers to the teacher at the end of the designated time frame in the same condition it was issued to the student, less reasonable wear. Damage beyond normal wear or loss of the smart phone computer while in the student's possession becomes the responsibility of the parents to pay for repairs or replacement.

Please become familiar with the Handheld Acceptance of Use Policy and sign below to state that you have read and agree to the terms of this contract.

Parent Signature _____ Date _____

Student Signature _____ Date _____