

Board Information Memo

SUBJECT: Student Technology and Hardware Purchase

Category (Contract Approval, Policy, Personnel, General Approval. etc.): Purchase

Date: 4/2/2026

Reason for Board Consideration (Fiscal Policy, State Requirement, etc.): Fiscal Policy

Decision Type (Action Item, Information Only, etc.): Action Item

Background (Brief Summary of Background Information):

Rising technology hardware prices and overall availability are a strong concern for CalOPS for the remainder of this year and moving into the future. We need to ensure that we are ready to quickly ship as many student devices when needed to new students and students with unusable devices upon request. To date we have found ourselves out of inventory a couple of times and we continue to have a steady flow of students requesting replacements. As we move closer to our virtual testing window it is imperative that all students have working devices to ensure the best participation rates we can.

In order to ensure we have devices on hand, ready as needed, and procured at the best price we are looking to purchase 3,000 student chromebooks at this time. In addition to these student chromebooks, we will also need to purchase student iPads for students who have the need for these devices outlined in their IEPs. We are looking to purchase 250 student ipads.

Rationale (Why is this important and why is this coming to the Board):

CalOPS Fiscal Policy states, "All purchases, contracts, or check requests of Twenty Thousand (\$20,000) Dollars or more require Board approval." As outlined below and in the attached quotes, this purchase is over \$20,000.

Evidence of Due Diligence:

CalOPS Staff is recommending the approval of the purchase of 3000 Student Chromebooks from technology vendor GHA Technologies Inc. for the total of \$1,750,815.00 and the purchase of 250 student iPads from technology vendor SoftMSP for the total of \$103,763.31. CalOPS staff requested quotes from three other vendors.

Technology vendor Mr Flores Tech Consulting quoted a total of \$1,711,500.00 for 3000 Student Chromebooks. Kirpa Systems quoted a total of \$1,742,250.00 for 3000 Student Chromebooks. Additional



quotes were requested for the purchase of 250 Student iPads, but Apple's prices for their products generally remain consistent across the board.

While the quotes we received were similar in price, moving to a new vendor would require the purchase and application of new asset tags for every device and a transition to a different inventory management platform, creating immediate one-time conversion costs with no added instructional benefit. These additional costs are being estimated by the CalOPS staff to be as much as \$15,000.

Fiscal Impact:

Student Chromebook cost = \$1,750,815.00

Student iPad cost = \$103,763.31

This student technology purchase will cost \$1,854,578.31 in total. We would typically consider this expense to be shared between schools based on the school's overall enrollment numbers. However, in looking at need, Chromebooks are sent to Southern California students in greater numbers than our other schools. We recommend that this purchase be expanded from California Online Public School Southern California solely as it will benefit their population most. The devices are also managed and stored within our Southern California region. This school is also our healthiest school with the strongest cashflow.

If approved, this purchase will be accounted for in the 25-26 school year budget for California Online Public School Southern California. We would use one-time funding, the Learning Recovery Emergency Block Grant designated for expenses that accelerate educational progress and aid in closing learning gaps. We have seen since the implementation of 1-1 device distribution that testing participation has increased, attendance has increased and learning gaps are decreasing.

Potential Conflicts of Interest: N/A

Recommendation/Board Action (if applicable):

Motion to approve the student technology purchase from GHA Technologies and SoftMSP as outlined using funding from CalOPS Southern California.

Prepared/Recommended/Approved By:

Dan Hertzler, Director of Operations

LaChelle Carter, Director of Finance