

APPENDIX B2: LAPTOP ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

August 13, 2020

The return to school in September 2020 will see a change in how education is provided in high schools. This personalization will provide students with the freedom to use devices that they are familiar with and comfortable using. Embracing technology is an integral component of our world and is reflected throughout the 10-year Education Plan as one of the conditions for success.

Parents will be responsible to supply their high school children with a computer or tablet. As many families already own such devices, their children can bring those for use in school. It is recommended that the devices meet the established minimum requirements to maximize the students' experience with the educational platforms

The Department is introducing a Laptop Assistance Program. Parents may apply for a subsidy based on their annual family income. For parents who are not eligible to receive a subsidy, a laptop can still be purchased through the identified vendor, as those laptops are available at lower prices than normal retail rates.

Directives

Subsidy Criteria

Only one subsidy is allowed per student. Any household making less than \$85,000 annually may be eligible, based on the criteria. The maximum value of the subsidy will be \$600 per child. This total was determined by evaluating the average cost of a device meeting the minimum requirements. The subsidy sliding scale is found on page 3 of this document.

How to Apply for Subsidy

Parents receives communication detailing the process to follow to apply for a subsidy. They will be directed online to the Parent Portal of the Department which explains the application process step by step. The Parent Portal is found here: <https://www.nbed.nb.ca/parentportal/en/>

If they are eligible for a subsidy, they will either receive a code to use to purchase the device through the online vendor who will ship it, or they can receive a refund or partial refund for a device that was purchased through other vendors.

How to Purchase a New Device

There are two methods that can be used to acquire a new device:

- Option 1: A vendor has been identified online. This vendor will accept the subsidy code that some parents will receive. For those that are eligible for the full \$600 subsidy, the cost of the device will be completely covered, and will then be shipped to the home address. For those that receive a subsidy under the maximum amount of \$600, they will have to pay the difference. IMP Solutions Group is the vendor (<https://eecdsc-edpeae.impsolutions.com>).

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- Option 2: Parents can go to any vendor and purchase any device they wish that meet the established technical criteria. Parents who qualify for a subsidy will then be able to submit the receipt to receive a refund or partial refund based on the amount of eligible subsidy.
- It should be noted that parents that are ineligible to receive a subsidy can still apply on this website to receive a code to purchase this laptop. A special price was negotiated with the vendor which is lower than regular prices found at other vendors.

Recent Device Purchases

If parents have purchased a device (or devices) since March 16, 2020 that their child will use for learning in high school in September, they may still apply for a benefit based on the eligibility criteria. Please note that applications for reimbursement will not be assessed until September and that they will need to attach an invoice as part of their application. For purchases made between March 16, 2020 and July 22, 2020, any new laptop or tablet will be accepted. To be eligible for a subsidy for purchases made commencing July 23, 2020, these devices must meet the specifications referred to above. Please note that smart phones are not eligible under the program.

Subsidy Program Eligibility

Laptop Assistance Program Subsidy	
Household income	Distribution for voucher or refund Number of high school students per family unit
Under \$40,000	Each student (\$600)
Between \$40,000 and \$55,000	First student (\$400) Additional students (\$600)
Between \$55,000 and \$70,000	First student (\$200) Second student (\$400) Additional students (\$600)
Between \$70,000 and \$85,000	Second student (\$200) Third student (\$400) Additional students (\$600)