

2009 Census of Technology and 2009-10 Funding updates

To: School Administrators and Technology Directors
From: Deborah Sutton, DESE Instructional Technology
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Please note that the Core Data screens for the 2009 Census of Technology (COT) are now available for data entry. Even under normal circumstances, Instructional Technology makes great use COT data, such as charting progress toward meeting goals of the Title II.D program and objectives in the Missouri Education Technology Strategic Plan. This past December, data became critically important when states were asked by the Obama transition team to project the needs and costs of equipping 21st century classrooms. And COT data will continue to play an important role in districts and the state being able to show the impact of the stimulus funds that will be provided under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

Please take the time to review the following program updates, and make every attempt to enter the COT data by the April 15 deadline. This document not only includes a COT update, but also information regarding federal ed-tech funding for 2009-10 (both the regular Title II.D and the new ARRA funding), and the impact that has on district technology planning and reporting and the use of the DESE electronic Planning and electronic Grants System (ePeGS).

Feel free to contact Instructional Technology at 573-751-8247 or instrtech@dese.mo.gov if you have any questions.

Census of Technology (COT)

The Census of Technology (COT) is an online census (or survey) administered each spring via DESE Core Data-April Cycle *Screens 30* and *31*. COT provides important data for the Department to assess Missouri's continuing investment in K-12 education technologies, to inform state and national decision-makers, and to help advance public policy and increase public awareness and support for education technology. Data elements are aligned with the *Missouri Education Technology Strategic Plan*, the *Missouri School Improvement Program*, and the *National Educational Technology Standards (ISTE NETS)*.

Screen 30 is a district-level census, completed by district-level administrators and/or technology specialists; it collects information for all Missouri school districts and charter LEAs, focusing on technology for the district/LEA as a whole. *Screen 31* is a school building census, completed by building administrators and/or technology staff; it assesses planning and training needs for each school, hardware and levels of Internet connectivity in computer labs, libraries, and classrooms, and technology usage statistics for building administrators, teachers, staff, and students. All attendance centers, including preschools, elementary schools, middle schools, junior high schools, high schools, area career centers, complete *Screen 31*.

2009 COT Update

1. The 8th-grade student technology literacy item (*Screen 30, item 8*) is *read only* – the percent will be calculated using MOSIS data.
2. The computer table (*Screen 31 Hardware and Support, item 1*) asks for the number of computing devices by location and platform as usual, and by *date of purchase* instead of by CPU/other descriptor. There are four date /age choices: less than 1 year (e.g., purchased in the last year), 1 to 3 years, 4 to 5 years, and 6 years or more. Note: if a computer is significantly upgraded, its purchase date should/can be adjusted accordingly.

For additional information about the COT – what data are collected and why, what is reported to the U.S. Department of Education and why, and which items seem to present the most difficulty for districts – see the 2009 COT FAQ posted on the Instructional Technology website, at: http://dese.mo.gov/divimprove/instrtech/documents/COT_FAQ_12-08.pdf.

Title II.D Enhancing Education through Technology (EETT)

On March 10, Congress passed the Omnibus Appropriations Act (HR 1105) that will provide significant funding for education, including education technology, for school-year 2009-10. Listed in the bill under School Improvement Programs is \$269.87 million for Title II, Part D of the Elementary and Secondary Act (ESEA), otherwise known as “Enhancing Education through Technology” (or EETT). This amount represents a seven percent increase of the current allocation, and will be distributed above and beyond the stimulus package [See ARRA].

The amount allocated for Title II.D is distributed to states in block grants, with each state’s share based on its Title I funding. Based on the current appropriation, Missouri expects to receive about \$4.2 million. Roughly 85 percent of the Missouri block grant is distributed to districts, with five percent allocated to DESE for program administration and roughly ten percent to an independent contractor to serve Missouri’s private school students. Flow-through funding is then distributed to eligible districts and charter schools via Formula (50 percent) and Competitive (50 percent) grants. Missouri will offer Formula grants in 2009-10 for the first time in four years using EETT and ARRA funds.

Formula Grants – DESE Grants Management [<http://dese.mo.gov/divimprove/fedprog/grantmgmt/>] oversees the formula sub-grant program. Districts and charter schools apply for these grants via the Federal Programs Application that is now part of the new DESE electronic Planning and electronic Grants System (ePeGS). District Title II.D allocations are based on district Title I allocations. While it’s likely that two-thirds of districts could receive \$2,500 or less, districts can also expect additional formula grants – approximately 2.3 times larger – to be made available with stimulus funding [See ARRA]. Allocations for Title II.D and other federal school improvement programs will be posted on the DESE Financial Management website at: <http://dese.mo.gov/divimprove/fedprog/financialmanagement/>.

The application requires districts to indicate how funds will be spent by checking one or more of the allowable program uses, and to tie the proposed costs and program uses to state-approved district technology plan goals, objectives, strategies, and actions steps if appropriate [See Technology Plans]. At least 25 percent of the grant must be used for professional development to help educators integrate technology in curriculum, instruction, and assessment. The expectation is for districts to submit federal program applications by July 1.

Competitive Grants – DESE Instructional Technology [<http://dese.mo.gov/divimprove/instrtech/>] manages the competitive sub-grant program. The purpose of competitive grants is to support projects in sufficient size and scope in order to show significant impact in terms of improved teaching and learning. To be eligible to apply, districts must rank in the top half of a ranking of districts based on number of children living in poverty or a ranking of districts based on percentage of children living in poverty. Poverty statistics are based on the U.S. Census data that ED provides states each program year.

In Missouri, competitive funds support projects that aim to improve instructional strategies and student achievement, including technology literacy skills, through schoolwide implementation of the eMINTS Instructional Model. The application deadline is March 31. The FY10 Title II.D Competitive Grant Administrative Manual, application forms, and related materials are posted on the program website, at: <http://dese.mo.gov/divimprove/instrtech/federalfunded/TitleIID/>.

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)

The President signed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), on February 17, which will provide funding above and beyond the regular federal funding covered in the omnibus bill reported above. Listed under School Improvement Programs is \$650 million for education technology, with the amount estimated for Missouri at \$9.7 million. Note that per ED EETT staff, in a March 13 conference call, decisions have NOT yet been finalized as to when states can expect to receive the ARRA ed-tech funding, but guidance should be distributed to states by early May. [Two U.S. Department of Education (ED) websites currently post conflicting roll-out dates for EETT:

one says all funding will be distributed in fall 2009, the other says half in June/July 2009 and half in September/October 2009.]

Below is an outline of how Missouri expects to manage ARRA ed-tech funds, based on what is known at this time. While the regular (EETT) and the stimulus (EETT-ARRA) ed-tech funds are separate programs – requiring separate application, accounting, and reporting – the ARRA funds are to be managed using Title II.D program rules.

- 50% of flow-through funding is distributed to districts via Formula grants and 50% via Competitive grants
 - 25% of grant expenditures must be used for technology-related professional development
- Districts apply for both EETT and EETT-ARRA Formula grants via ePeGS
 - *Expect to receive additional guidance from DESE Grants Management with EETT-ARRA Formula grant allocations, application procedures, and accounting and reporting requirements*
- Eligible districts may submit one Competitive grant application: for either school- or district-wide implementation of the eMINTS instructional model (75% of Competitive funds available) or implementation of another research-based, technology-infused, school improvement project (25% of funds)
 - eMINTS model – the application deadline is March 31; applicants are instructed to follow the existing FY10 Title II.D Competitive Grant Administrative Manual and application materials
 - Other instructional models – the application deadline is April 10; applicants are instructed to follow the new FY10 EETT-ARRA Competitive Grant Administrative Manual and application materials
 - *Competitive grant materials are posted online – and expect additional guidance from Instructional Technology about EETT-ARRA competitive funding as it becomes available – at: <http://dese.mo.gov/divimprove/instrtech/federalfunded/TitleIID/>*

Technology Plans and ePeGS

Any district/charter school planning to apply for a Title II.D Formula Grant (EETT or EETT-ARRA) will need to be familiar with the electronic Planning and electronic Grants System (ePeGS) and enter appropriate parts of the district's approved technology plan in ePeGS.

- Only those technology plans that must be state approved by June 30, 2009 have to be entered in ePeGS, in their entirety, and submitted by the April 15 deadline
- The Formula grant application, embedded in the DESE ePeGS Federal Programs Application, requires applicants to tie the proposed costs and program uses to state-approved district technology plan goals, objectives, strategies, (and actions steps if appropriate)
 - districts should enter tech plan information in ePeGS prior to filing the grant application – but only need to input those parts of the plan that relate to proposed Title II.D Formula grant activities and expenditures
 - districts do NOT have to enter plans in ePeGS to apply for the paper-based Competitive grant applications – districts address ed-tech alignment in the grant project narratives

Resource materials

To review presentation slides for a basic “ePeGS 101” workshop on how to use the system, go to: <http://dese.mo.gov/pegs/>, and for a FAQ on technology planning and entering them in ePeGS, go to: <http://dese.mo.gov/divimprove/instrtech/>

Newsline and EdTech Listserv

Stay abreast of ed-tech news: read Instructional Technology's monthly online newsletter and subscribe to the EdTech listserv. [See: <http://dese.mo.gov/divimprove/instrtech/>]