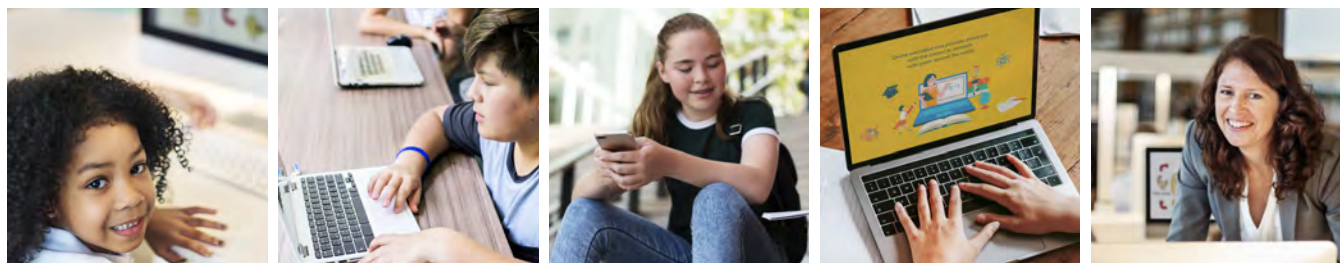


Funding the Classrooms of the Future

How government funds are fueling a resurgence of tech upgrades and connectivity in classrooms across the U.S.



The Utopian classroom in the U.S. is not too far off in the distant future for students and teachers with all the new funding available for IT. The pandemic has highlighted many problems students, parents, and teachers face with the inequality of educational opportunity. There have been many issues schools have had to overcome to fix the disparity, like impoverished communities, rural areas that lack connectivity or internet service, and 1:1 device learning. Due to the pandemic, Congress had no choice but to fund multiple programs ensuring remote learning challenges are solved once and for all.

Let's look at one of the newest funding resources to support the remote learning environments brought on by the pandemic. [Congress passed ECF or Emergency Connectivity Funding through the America Rescue Plan in March of 2021](#). The program funding set aside was 7.1B dollars to purchase technology that solely supports off-campus needs such as 1:1 device learning and connectivity with hotspots or wireless needs. The ECF program funds multiple technologies to solve remote learning initiatives; [look at the program FAQs by visiting the FCC or USAC websites](#).

Here are examples of technology covered by the ECF program:

- Laptops, Tablets, Chromebooks
- Capped at \$400 per user per device
- Supports learning outcomes off-campus
- Bus WiFi Bundles
- No funding limits within reason
- Supports multi-user network access in strategic locations
- Hotspots
- \$250 funding cap per single-user hotspot
- SSID and CIPA compliant
- Supports off-campus learning

Another challenge in many rural communities is long commutes on bus transportation to and from school. Think about how beneficial it is to the students if they could be connected while riding the bus. Bus connectivity is a value-add to enabling the child's educational success. Another unique solution for unconnected communities is using the bus as a mobile library. Today, technology provides students direct access to their classrooms or libraries using the bus's WiFi.

Just as critical as it is to have a solid plan, you should also seek out the right service provider who understands the program and has in-house experts to help with any questions you may have about the programs available. At Synergetics, we will work with you to maximize funding to be most beneficial for your school— today and into the future. By utilizing the funding available, you can design intelligent fiscal and technological strategies that will empower you to improve K-12 education for your organization. Engage with us today to start building your Utopia classroom of the future.

Contact Synergetics to discuss how we can ensure your students and teachers have the best technology to empower success!

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