TITLE 23: EDUCATION AND CULTURAL RESOURCES  
SUBTITLE A: EDUCATION  
CHAPTER I: STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
SUBCHAPTER j: TEXTBOOKS AND EQUIPMENT  
PART 365  
CHILDREN’S LOW-COST LAPTOP PROGRAM

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AUTHORITY: Implementing and authorized by the Children’s Low-cost Laptop Act [105 ILCS 65].

Section 365.10 Purpose and Applicability

This Part establishes the proposal procedure and criteria for selection by the State Superintendant of Education of eligible schools that will receive grant funds under the Children’s Low-cost Laptop Act [105 ILCS 65].

(Source: Amended at 34 Ill. Reg. 19252, effective November 29, 2010)
Section 365.20 Eligible Applicants

a) Eligible applicants shall be school districts with one or more schools serving any of grades 3 through 8 that:

1) have 40 percent or more of its students eligible to receive free or reduced-price meals under the National School Lunch Program (42 USC 1751 et seq.);

2) are in Academic Early Warning or Academic Watch status under Section 2-3.25d of the School Code [105 ILCS 5/2-3.25d]; and

3) have a significant percentage of the students with limited or no access to laptop computers for use in improving their educational opportunities.

b) For purposes of this Part, any public school operated by an agency of the State of Illinois shall be treated as a “school district”.

c) Public university laboratory schools approved by the State Board of Education pursuant to Section 18-8.05(K) of the School Code [105 ILCS 5/18-8.05(K)] and charter schools shall be eligible to apply on the same basis as school districts; see 105 ILCS 5/2-3.109a and 27A-11.5, respectively.

d) Eligibility shall be limited to entities having State-approved technology integration plans.

e) An applicant chosen for funding shall not subsequently lose eligibility due solely to improvement in the status of the schools served relative to Section 2-3.25d of the School Code.

(Source: Amended at 34 Ill. Reg. 19252, effective November 29, 2010)
Section 365.30  Program Specifications

a) Recipients under this program shall receive a major portion of the resources necessary to implement a schoolwide or classroom-based program that uses educational software and computer skills training to improve academic achievement and the progress measures listed in subsection (a) of Section 25 of the Act. Funding under this program must be in accordance with the purposes set forth in Section 15(b) of the Act.

b) Recipients under this program may be required to upgrade their electrical or other capacity or to make other in-kind contributions as a condition of participation.

c) Each recipient under this program shall be required to develop a policy providing for:

1) students’ safety when using the Internet; and

2) students’ use of, responsibility for, and return of equipment and materials loaned under this program.

d) Each recipient under this program shall provide laptop computers to administrators only to the extent that these individuals have a demonstrable role in supporting the work of the teachers whose classrooms are served or in conducting or supporting efforts aimed at implementing the strategies outlined in the recipient’s State-approved technology integration plan.

e) Each recipient shall compile the information necessary for purposes of the annual progress report required by Section 25 of the Act.

(Source: Amended at 34 Ill. Reg. 19252, effective November 29, 2010)
Section 365.40  Application Procedure

a)  When State funding is available for this program, the State Superintendent of Education shall issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) in order to solicit proposals from eligible entities.

b)  The RFP shall describe the format that applicants will be required to follow and the information they will be required to submit, including at least:

1)  a description of the project and its intended outcomes;

2)  identification of the specific schools, or classrooms in a school, to be served;

3)  a description of the building infrastructure, including technological and electrical capacity, of each participating school;

4)  the number of students and the grade levels involved; and

5)  the rationale for these choices.

c)  The RFP shall require the completion of a budget summary and payment schedule as well as a budget breakdown, i.e., a detailed explanation of each line item of expenditure.

d)  The RFP shall identify the data that recipients will be required to collect and report regarding the activities conducted with program funds and the results of those activities, as well as the timelines for reporting. The data shall at least include those elements required under Section 25 of the Act.

e)  The RFP shall include such certifications and assurances and program-specific terms of the grant as the State Superintendent may require, to be signed by each applicant that is a party to the proposal and submitted with the proposal.

f)  The RFP shall specify the deadline for submission of proposals, which shall provide potential applicants with at least 30 days to respond.

g)  Separate proposals shall be required for renewal of grant funding. Each proposal for renewal shall include at least a description of activities during the year just concluded, demonstrating that the project has been implemented in conformance with the approved grant agreement and that the recipient continues to exhibit need for assistance for this purpose.
h) Applicants may be requested to clarify various aspects of their proposals. The contents of the approved proposal shall be incorporated into a grant agreement to be signed by the State Superintendent of Education or designee and the school district superintendent or, in the case of a non-school district applicant, the official authorized to sign the agreement and legally bind the applicant to its provisions.

(Source: Amended at 34 Ill. Reg. 19252, effective November 29, 2010)
Section 365.50 Criteria for the Review of Initial Proposals

a) Initial proposals shall be evaluated in accordance with the following criteria:

1) Quality of the Plan (50 points)

   A) The proposal indicates how the prevalence of personal laptop computers and other technological resources can be used to mitigate the problems identified.

   B) The proposal discusses specific strategies that will be used by teachers and administrators, respectively, to improve the schools’ and students’ outcomes with respect to the specific problems noted and provides a plan for aligning these strategies to the State-approved technology integration plan.

   C) The proposal demonstrates that the teachers and administrators responsible for the classrooms to be served are amenable to the kinds of changes in their work that will occur if a greater reliance on technology is made possible.

   D) The proposal links the plan for the use of personal computing technology to other school improvement initiatives relevant to the schools to be served.

2) Need (30 points)

   A) The proposal demonstrates that the schools to be served currently have inadequate access to technological resources that can be used directly by students and teachers.

   B) The proposal discusses other initiatives and strategies that have not been as effective as hoped in improving students’ performance over time.

3) Evaluation Plan (20 points)

   The proposal identifies how and by whom each of the data elements implicit in the reporting requirement of Section 25 of the Act will be collected and how each of the applicable comparisons will be made.
b) Proposals shall be grouped according to the geographic areas delineated in Section 20 of the Act, and each proposal shall be ranked only in comparison to proposals from other eligible entities within its respective group.

(Source: Amended at 34 Ill. Reg. 19252, effective November 29, 2010)
Section 365.60 Allocation of Funds

a) The State Superintendent of Education shall approve initial proposals and make final determinations regarding the resources to be provided based upon the total funds appropriated for this initiative and the amounts necessary to fund the top-ranked proposals.

b) It is the intention of the State Board of Education to approve proposals in such a way as to ensure that at least one-third of the participating students are located in the City of Chicago; at least one-third are located in the area that makes up DuPage, Kane, Lake, McHenry, Will and that portion of Cook County located outside of the City of Chicago; and at least one-third are located in the remainder of the State. (Section 20 of the Act)

c) It is the intention of the State Board of Education to approve projects under this Part for a two-year period. Support in the second year shall be contingent upon the availability of funds for the program and evidence presented in renewal proposals that the projects have been implemented in accordance with the approved grant agreements and that the recipients continue to need additional State resources in order to maintain comprehensive technology-based learning programs.

d) A district that has received two years’ support under this Part may subsequently apply as a new applicant.

(Source: Amended at 34 Ill. Reg. 19252, effective November 29, 2010)