



In "No Child Left Offline" Program, Kentucky Works to Get Computers to Low Income Families and Kids

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According to a recently published kentucky.gov press release, Kentucky Governor Ernie Fletcher has announced a \$300,000 Appalachian Regional Commission funding grant to the "No Child Left Offline" program. The program that will provide and deliver refurbished computers and computer supplies to low income and underprivileged children and families throughout the state of Kentucky.

Governor Ernie Fletcher said, "We live in the information age. Providing underprivileged children and families with computer access is one way we are moving all Kentuckians forward. Children have a vast array of educational, civic and economic opportunities via the Web, and without these computers they would miss those opportunities."

The ConnectKentucky program will help get computers to at-risk and underprivileged middle school students who qualify for free and reduced lunch in a total of 15 counties in Kentucky.

The students will receive refurbished desk top computers, equipped with a Intel Pentium processor or similar. The computers also come with monitors, Lexmark Inkjet printers and cartridges, Microsoft Windows operating systems, Word processing applications, spreadsheets and other utilities and Internet security software.

The computers will also come equipped with educational applications, programs, and games on them. The programs will include educational exercises, healthy lifestyles, problem solving, civics, geography and other items.

"It's a great program," said Louisville resident Pauletta Buryer. "Nearly everyone in the U.S. is connected through the internet. Those who can't afford computers shouldn't be limited just because they can't afford it. With this new program, it will connect more residents. It will also help poorer families in the state and educate children at home, instead of just at school. Technology is an amazing thing, and the state is making sure all residents benefit from growing technology."

Another Kentucky resident and teacher, Pete Hawfield, said, "Kids need to learn outside of school. Even in school, we use computers and other technology to expand education. When kids have computers at home, it allows them to get more practice in and learn more essentially. It's amazing that the state is equipping more kids and their families with the technology they need."

The Appalachian Regional Commission (or the ARC) is a federal-state economic development program that works to meet infrastructure needs and support student and resident education, complete workforce development, important leadership and civic capacity building, small business entrepreneurship, development and affordable and accessible health care. A total of fifty-one counties in eastern and southcentral Kentucky are eligible to apply for the generous funds through the Governor's Office for Local Development.

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