

No Child Left Offline Donates 71 Computers to Elliott County Students



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Elliott County will be the recipient of No Child Left Offline computers provided by Appalachian Regional Commission grant

Frankfort, KY; February 11, 2008: Today, a ceremony was held at Adkins-Caudill Performing Arts Center celebrating the donation of 71 computers to Elliott County 6th graders. The computers were donated through ConnectKentucky's No Child Left Offline (NCLC) program, an innovative initiative designed to help close the digital divide among Kentucky's youth.

"There is a direct correlation between computers and student success," said State Senator Walter Blevins Jr., D-Sandy Hook. "*No Child Left Offline* is a great program that continues to move Kentucky in the right direction. The support of ConnectKentucky and its donation further ensures that Elliott County students are not left offline and behind."

ConnectKentucky was recently awarded a \$300,000 grant by Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) to distribute over 1000 refurbished computers in the ARC region. With the generous support of the Appalachian Regional Commission and in partnership with Microsoft Corp., CA, Inc., and Lexmark International, ConnectKentucky will be distributing 71 refurbished internet-ready computers donated by Morehead State University. Each computer will be coupled with Lexmark Inkjet Printers, security software donated by CA Inc, and XP operating systems donated by Microsoft.

No Child Left Offline brings together public and private partners to help Kentucky households join the Information Age. The program is the most comprehensive initiative of its kind undertaken by any state in the nation. It ensures that thousands of computers donated by the state and private providers will be saved from landfills and used for the benefit of Kentucky families.

Today, thousands of Kentucky children live in homes without computers. *No Child Left Offline* is designed to help those families by providing access to technology where the need is greatest. For many families, owning a computer is the first step to reaching the opportunities available through the Internet. "No Child Left Offline continues to transform the lives of Kentucky's families," stated Andrew V. McNeill, Vice President of Program Development. "Through the generous contribution of the Appalachian Regional Commission and the support of our corporate partners, ConnectKentucky is closing Kentucky's digital divide, one household at a time." Placing computers in the hands of underprivileged students awards them the opportunity to access educational and research materials they need in order to effectively compete with the

rest of the digital natives. Recent research revealed that broadband adoption grew five times faster in counties that received computers through No Child Left Offline in the last two years.

ConnectKentucky has already initiated and executed a successful pilot project of No Child Left Offline and has delivered approximately 2000 Internet-ready computers to middle school students and their families in 11 ARC counties. As part of the ARC initiative, ConnectKentucky has already delivered about 350 computers to Powell, Estill and Lee Counties and will continue to do so across the ARC until schools close for summer break.

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About ConnectKentucky: ConnectKentucky is leading the way into a new economy for Kentuckians. As an independent technology-based economic development organization, ConnectKentucky works to ensure that Kentucky remains the place of choice to live, work, and raise a family. ConnectKentucky is an alliance of technology-minded businesses, government entities and universities working together to accelerate technology in the Commonwealth. *For more information about ConnectKentucky visit www.connectkentucky.org*