

BUSINESS FIRST

Article: Bell County receives No Child Left Offline computers

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No Child Left Offline donated 202 computers to Bell County sixth-graders through a grant from the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) in a ceremony held today at Yellow Creek School Center in Middlesboro, Ky.

The computers were donated through ConnectKentucky, an initiative to bring broadband Internet access to schoolchildren across the state.

ConnectKentucky recently was awarded a \$300,000 grant by ARC to distribute more than 1,000 refurbished computers in the ARC region. The Internet-ready computers were donated by Morehead State University through ARC in partnership with Microsoft Corp., CA Inc., Lexmark International Inc. and ConnectKentucky, according to a news release.

Each computer will be paired with a Lexmark inkjet printer, security software donated by CA Inc, and XP operating systems and Office applications donated by Microsoft, according to the release.

No Child Left Offline brings together public and private entities to expand access to technology in remote, impoverished areas where the need is greatest.

The release cited research indicating that broadband adoption grew five times faster in counties that received computers through No Child Left Offline during the last two years.

ConnectKentucky has delivered about 2,000 Internet-ready computers to middle school students and their families in 11 ARC counties, according to the release, including more than 400 computers to Powell, Estill, Lee and Elliott counties.