

# Computers 4 Kids Donates Computers to Floyd County Students



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*ConnectKentucky's Computers 4 Kids donates computers to Floyd County  
to encourage technology literacy for families in the area*

**Prestonsburg, KY:** Today at a press conference held at Floyd County Public Library, Floyd County residents and representatives from several organizations received news that they will receive computers from ConnectKentucky's Computers 4 Kids (C4K) program. Working with Brent Graden, the director of economic development in Prestonsburg, C4K will be donating computers to the Floyd County Public Library, Minnie Library, Wheelright Library, the Floyd County School System, and the Carl D. Perkins Job Corps Center. This contribution will be matched by a donation from the Kentucky Dataseam Initiative. This collaborative contribution is valued at more than \$60,000.

"We are pleased to work with ConnectKentucky on this project," stated Brian Gupton, chief executive officer of Dataseam. "The laptops brought to the district by ConnectKentucky advance the education aspects of Dataseam's economic development program. Coupled with the workstations placed by Dataseam and Floyd County over the past 3 years to further cancer research efforts with the University of Louisville, these laptops continue to provide students increased access to technology, which is vital to Kentucky's 21st century workforce success."

"This is an outstanding venture between ConnectKentucky and DataSeam" said Graden. "Computers 4 Kids helps kids in need to succeed both in the classroom and in the workforce. When you leverage technology with the community's needs, you help them to achieve their full potential. We just recently made our whole downtown wireless for free. This is another step in using technology as a springboard to help us compete on the world stage. Any small town in America should be able to compete in the global market with today's technology."

ConnectKentucky was recently awarded a \$300,000 grant by the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) to distribute over 1,000 computers in the ARC region. With the generous support of the Appalachian Regional Commission, and in partnership with Lexmark International, Microsoft Corp, CA Inc and Morehead State University, ConnectKentucky distributed 71 computers, coupled with CA and Microsoft software and along with a Lexmark Printer, to sixth graders in Floyd County in February 2008.

Computers 4 Kids brings together public and private partners to help citizens join the Information Age. The program is the most comprehensive initiative of its kind undertaken by any state in the nation. It ensures that computers donated by the state and private providers will be saved from landfills and used for the benefit of Kentucky families.

“Computers 4 Kids continues to transform the lives of Kentucky’s families,” stated Rene True, executive director for ConnectKentucky. “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 families through libraries awards them the opportunity to access educational and research materials they need in order to effectively compete in today’s global economy.

ConnectKentucky has already initiated and executed a successful pilot project of Computers 4 Kids through its predecessor, No Child Left Offline, and has delivered nearly 3,000 Internet-ready computers to middle school students and their families in 10 ARC counties. As part of the ARC initiative, ConnectKentucky has already delivered more than 1,000 computers to Powell, Estill, Lee, Floyd, Martin, Bell, Martin, Harlan, Casey, and Russell Counties.

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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](http://www.connectkentucky.org)*