

Community Consolidated School District 15



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Joseph M. Kiszka Educational Service Center
580 N. 1st Bank Drive
Palatine, IL 60067-8110

Matthew J. Barbini, Ed.D.
Deputy Superintendent of Schools

(847) 963-3202 • Fax (847) 963-3200
www.ccsd15.net

MEMORANDUM

To: Scott B. Thompson, Ed.D.
From: Matt Barbini, Ed.D.
Date: December 5, 2014
Re: 14-1230J Request for Quote (RFQ) iPad Keyboards



The administration is recommending that the Board of Education approves the RFQ for the purchase a classroom set of 32 (thirty-two) iPad keyboards for each school through GHA Technologies. This purchase will provide schools with greater flexibility to meet the technology and scheduling demands associated with the upcoming PARCC test in March.

Additionally, the keyboards will have instructional benefits. Teachers will be able to provide students with more experiences in the classroom that might otherwise be done in only in the computer lab. Given that keyboarding is a skill that is required in the Common Core State Standards (ELA- Writing - Production and Distribution of Writing - Standard 6), access to keyboards will give teachers additional resources to give students keyboarding experience. One example is that students would have more access to keyboards to create final drafts of writing activities. An additional unique benefit for iPad use its that keyboards allow students to view the entire iPad screen when working on tasks that integrate touch screen and keyboard use (such as creating a book that uses both pictures and text). GHA Technologies was one of six vendors that responded to a request for quote (RFQ) that was drafted by the Technology Services and Business Department. GHA Technologies presented the lowest quote for the Belkin B2B124 keyboard. The total cost of the keyboards for the District's 15 elementary schools and 4 junior high schools that will be supported by central office funds will be: \$20,280. This expenditure has been accounted for within the budget of the Technology Services Department and the Department of Instruction.

The RFQ was written to allow schools to purchase additional classroom set(s) of iPad keyboards out of their school-based funds should they elect to do so. Subsequently, it is likely that the total purchase amount will exceed \$25,000.