

12 CAMPUSES IN LAUSD GET HIGH-TECH AID.(News)

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State technology grants to wire campuses, train teachers and purchase computers were awarded to 12 LAUSD campuses, including \$1.3 million to San Fernando High School, officials said Thursday.

Statewide, 315 high schools will share \$136 million the California Department of Education has allocated in the second year of the Digital High School Program.

"For us, (the grant) is a necessity," said Marco Torres, a computer and social studies teacher at San Fernando High. "This can open up opportunities and alternatives for our students with careers."

The grant award is \$300 per student based on enrollment figures. Larger schools such as San Fernando received funding close to \$1.3 million and smaller schools such as Granada Hills High and Kennedy High received \$975,000 and \$819,000, respectively.

"This is good news for us," said Pat Spencer, a spokesman for the Los Angeles Unified School District. "The amount of money coming from the state is usually very limited. This is a major increase."

At North Hollywood High, Assistant Principal Dave Smith said the first priority is to redo the outdated computer lab and purchase more computers, routers and ports.

"We will be getting a whole lot of opportunities to connect the school," Smith said.

Other high schools receiving the grants include: North Hollywood, \$1 million; El Camino Real, \$932,700; Burbank Options for Youth, \$27,800; Glendale Senior, \$1.1 million; and Belmont, \$1.37 million.

The Digital High School Program will continue for two more years until 100 percent of the state's eligible high schools receive funding, said Gaye Smoot, a consultant for the state's Department of Education.

High schools must meet eligibility rules that include the ability to match the \$300 per student with local grants and meet local school district's prioritization, Smoot said.

Spencer said he expects that the matching funds will come from the district.

After the installation grant, each school will continue receiving \$45 per student in funding, which also must be matched locally. This additional funding will start after two years from initial selection, Smoot said.

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