



PROGRAM GUIDELINES

For the second consecutive year, Windstream will offer the *Classroom Connections* program to improve technology in public schools. Windstream will make charitable donations of \$25,000 to four schools (\$100,000 total) within Windstream's service area.

The money **must** be used by recipients for computers, software, technological upgrades or updates, educational technology or programs, furnishings related to computer technology, Internet connectivity, networking or security. The money **must** be used for core curriculum purposes and not for extra-curricular activities offered by recipients, unless a compelling need is demonstrated in the application and approved by Windstream. Eligible schools may apply on or before March 19, 2010, and recipients of the \$25,000 donations will be notified in May 2010. Participating schools must agree to assist Windstream in any advertising, promotions or other publicity that Windstream may engage in regarding the *Classroom Connections* program.

If Windstream learns that a recipient is using the donation for purposes other than described above, Windstream reserves the right to withdraw the full, or any portion of the, donation, or promise of the donation, at anytime. Windstream has the right to request periodic progress reports on the status of the technology upgrades.

ELIGIBILITY

Applicants for *Classroom Connections* must be K-12 public or public charter schools located within Windstream's service area. The service area can be found [here](#). Schools or school districts do not have to be Windstream customers to apply or be selected. Applications must be endorsed by the school district and/or educational foundation. Schools located outside Windstream's service area will not be considered.

AWARDS

\$25,000 Donations

If selected as a recipient, the school will receive \$25,000 that **must** be used for a computer lab, computers in classrooms or to upgrade computers or educational technology within the school. Windstream will make no more than four \$25,000 donations (\$100,000 total).

Each \$25,000 donation may only be used at one school within a school district. Windstream has the right to make donations to schools located in the same state, but not in the same district. The donation also may be used to purchase associated educational tools, software, technological upgrades or updates, presentation equipment, networking, security, lighting, furnishings or renovations for a computer lab or computers in classrooms.

Windstream will not make recommendations regarding the selection of any items purchased by the recipient or assist in any renovations, construction, installation, maintenance or repair. The only exception is if the recipient is a Windstream customer, and Windstream employees assist as part of their normal job duties in installation of telephone or Internet-related equipment. Windstream specifically disclaims any liability or responsibility for any real property improvements or personal property purchased by the recipient with the donation.

Awards for the four schools receiving the \$25,000 donations will be announced by Windstream in May 2010.

\$5,000 Spirit Awards

In addition to four \$25,000 donations, Windstream also will distribute up to 10 Spirit Awards. Each Spirit Award is worth \$5,000.

After the recipients of the four \$25,000 donations are chosen, the remaining schools submitting applications will be placed in numerical order based on the judges' scores (highest to lowest). Schools in the top 30 will be Spirit Award finalists.

Spirit Award finalists' videos will be placed online at www.windstream.com/classroom and open to public vote from May 17, 2010, to August 20, 2010. The 10 schools whose videos receive the most online votes will each receive \$5,000 to use at their discretion. In the event of a tie, the school with the highest judges' score will receive the Spirit Award. An individual may vote one time per day for a Spirit Award finalist.

Spirit Awards will be announced by Windstream in September 2010.

JUDGING CRITERIA

Applications will be reviewed by a panel of no more than 10 individuals made up of Windstream employees and external representatives chosen by Windstream from the education and technology industries.

Applicants will be assessed on the following items:

- School need
- Information contained in the application
- Video presentation demonstrating school need
- Creativity of video presentation
- Enthusiasm for the *Classroom Connections* program
- School district ability to assist in the implementation of the computer-related purchases or updates
- Outline of how the \$25,000 would be used to provide students access, or greater access, to computer technology
- Current computer technology at the school, including the types of computers, number of students per computer, software currently used, age of equipment, number of computers in the classrooms v. computer lab and average amount of computer time per student per week
- How computers are integrated into lesson plans

APPLICATIONS

Interested schools are required to complete an online application at www.windstream.com/classroom and submit a video demonstrating need no later than March 19, 2010. Other supporting documentation, such as photographs or slides, will also be considered. Applicants will receive acknowledgment of receipt of their application via e-mail. Applications and supporting documentation and videos must not contain material subject to a trademark or copyright, unless the applicant has the express permission of the holder of the trademark or copyright for use of the material. Applicants must submit evidence of the express permission with the application.

Applicants are responsible for gathering and submitting all necessary information. Applications are evaluated on the information supplied, so answer all questions as completely as possible. The application must include a proposal for how the school will use the \$25,000 if the school receives the donation. **Incomplete applications will not be considered.**

Applicants are deemed to have agreed to these terms and conditions with the submission of an application and video. Applications and accompanying videos become the sole property of Windstream upon submission and the applicants expressly agree to Windstream utilizing all or part of any video in advertising or postings to a Windstream-related Web site. Applicants further agree that Windstream may edit the videos prior to posting to any Windstream-related Web site at Windstream's discretion.

A complete list of \$25,000 donation recipients and Spirit Award recipients will be available from Windstream in September 2010.
