

Instruction Equipment Funding FY26

1. Northland has \$261,454 available for instructional equipment purchases in FY26
 - a. \$123,781 is leveraged equipment funding.
 - i. These funds are available to programs designated as high-demand program areas.
 1. Please see link to DEED in "Attachment 1"
 - ii. No Match is required for FY26
 - iii. See "Attachment 1" for more information on Leveraged Equipment Funding
 - b. \$137,673 in Perkins Funding.
 - i. Perkins funds are available to fund new and innovative equipment currently being utilized within industry.
 - ii. Match is not Required for Perkins Funding
2. Match Requirements
 - a. Match Is not required for instructional equipment in FY26 but, it is encouraged
 - b. If you have a donation, please work with the Business Office to have it recorded properly
3. Timeline
 - a. GroupLink for Instructional Equipment Requests open October 6th
 - b. Instructional equipment requests will be due by Tuesday October 21st
 - c. Division Chairs will review and prioritize requests by 10/28
 - d. ASA Dean's, Perkins Coordinator, Facilities Director, and Technology Director will meet to review recommendations from Division Chairs before 11/21.
 - e. VP's will finalize approved instructional equipment purchases on 11/25.
 - f. Final List will be presented to the FFT council during the 12/5 meeting
 - g. Requestors with approved equipment will receive purchasing approval memos by 12/12
 - h. Requisitions for purchases must be completed in workday by January 23rd
 - i. This gives us a small window to make final adjustments if needed
 - i. All requisitions must be approved before January 31st 2026**
 - i. Approved funds that do not have a requisition submitted and approved by 1/31/26 will be redistributed to other requests not funded.
 - ii. Any unencumbered funds as of 2/28/26 will return to the state and be reallocated based on need



DATE: August 28, 2025

TO: College and University Presidents / Chief Financial Officers / SAOs

FROM: Phil Arellano, Interim Associate Director for Workforce and Economic Development

SUBJECT: FY2026 Leveraged Equipment Funds (LEV)

Leveraged Equipment Funds:

- In 2013, the Legislature appropriated \$7,278,00 in base funding for distribution to colleges and universities to support equipment purchases for instructional programs with high employment needs.
- Funding is distributed to colleges and universities each year based on an institution's five-year average of general fund instructional equipment spending, including leveraged equipment spending. Institutions that did not fully utilize their prior year allocation have had that amount deducted from the following year's allocation.

Fiscal Year 2026 Allocation and Adjustments:

1. FY2026 includes the \$7.2 million base funding for Leveraged Equipment.
2. 100 percent of leveraged equipment funds and enhanced learning environments will be distributed, utilizing the five-year rolling average of general fund instructional equipment spending to each college and university. **Please see the attached document for your institution's specific amount and spending guidelines. These funds will be available with the September adjustment.**
3. A 1:1 private match is **not** required for FY26 for Leveraged Equipment funds. However, we encourage campuses to share any cash or in-kind contributions they secure so we can highlight and report the valuable partnerships supporting this work. A request for cash or in-kind contributions reporting will be made in early Spring, 2026.
4. All FY2026 funds should be encumbered February 28, 2026. Any unencumbered funds may be returned to the system office in March 2026 and allocated to institutions that can ensure the funds are used for equipment purchases by June 20, 2026. A final report of spent/encumbered leveraged equipment funds will be completed in August 2025.

Enhanced Learning Environments Funds (WEF):

- The Enhanced Learning Environments Funds (WEF) were a one-time appropriation made by the legislature for the FY2024–25 biennium.
- While the legislature did not continue this funding in FY2026, we are grateful for the investment that was made. Campuses are encouraged to maximize ongoing resources and should not plan on these funds being available in future budgets.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Best,



Phil Arellano

Interim Director for Workforce and Economic Development
Minnesota State

CC: Shannon Bryant, Executive Director for Workforce and Economic Development
Jaime Simonsen, Chief of Staff
Bill Maki, Vice Chancellor for Finance

Leveraged Equipment Funds - EQUIPMENT GUIDELINES

1. What are eligible equipment purchases?

Equipment purchases shall be for instructional purposes for programs that produce graduates with skills for which there is high employer need. Computer equipment or software to support distance learning or to protect testing integrity, including equipment that supports non-campus-based learning, are also eligible purchases.

2. How is high employer need defined?

An example and current list of high employer job categories as defined by the MN Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) occupational demand data, which can be found here: https://apps.deed.state.mn.us/lmi/oid/Results_9Columns.aspx

3. Can appropriated funds be used to cover the shipping costs of eligible program equipment purchased with state dollars?

Yes.

4. Can state dollars be used to purchase used equipment?

The intent of the program is to provide state-of-the-art equipment for student learning. While purchase of used equipment is not prohibited, colleges and universities should be certain that the used equipment is considered state-of-the-art, and is widely used or is expected to be widely used in the workplace of a high need area.

5. Can leveraged equipment funds be used to purchase computers? If so, are there any limits on this?

Computers that are used by students in high employer demand programs may be purchased. Examples include computers for diagnostic technologies or computer aided design. Equipment for smart classrooms or computers for general college-wide use are not eligible.

6. Can leveraged funds be used to purchase a bus to transport students in a program?

No, leveraged equipment funds may not be used to purchase transportation for a program. The intent of the program is to purchase instructional equipment for direct student learning.

7. Can instructional videos be purchased with leveraged funds?

Instructional videos may be purchased only if the videos can be directly related to current state-of-the-art practices and procedures that otherwise would be difficult to present in a classroom format.

8. Can funds be used for equipment that supports lower division coursework in two-year colleges that offer specific baccalaureate transfer programs (including transfer pathways) to four-year institutions?

Leveraged equipment may be used to purchase instructional equipment in these program areas only if those baccalaureate programs are defined as high employment need by MN Department of Employment and Economic Development. For information on high demand programs (3 stars or more DEMAND rating), use this link: https://apps.deed.state.mn.us/lmi/oid/Results_9Columns.aspx