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***** MEDIA ADVISORY *****

EPISD laptop distribution kicks off Monday MacBook Air notebooks will be given to middle-schoolers, freshmen

EL PASO, TEXAS — The El Paso Independent School District continues to utilize the Bond 2016 funds to create modern and active-learning opportunities for all students.

EPISD will achieve its goal of providing a portable computer device to each registered student thanks to the distribution of more than 13,000 new MacBook Air notebooks to all high-school freshmen and middle-school students in several campuses.

The distribution of laptops will start on Monday and continue through Aug. 18, as technology and instructional leaders personally hand out the trendy, but necessary educational tools for students to achieve their academic goals in modern learning environments. Once the distribution is completed, every qualifying student in the District will have access to a laptop computer or similar device to use on a daily basis.

Media is welcomed to cover the distribution of computers from 8 a.m. to noon on Monday, Aug. 7, at the Andress High School cafeteria, 5400 Sun Valley Dr.

“We expect students to be ready to compete globally after they graduate from high school, and that means giving them tools they need to be successful, critical thinkers,” said Superintendent Juan Cabrera. “The MacBook Airs are not just fun. They’re an important aid to our teachers, who have spent years training on digital learning techniques.”

The 1:1 distribution of computer devices for students addresses two core components of EPISD 2020, the District’s strategic plan: the modernization of learning environments, and the provision of engaging and challenging learning.

Through its PowerUp initiative, EPISD provides all students and their families with free access to digital textbooks, software and cloud space – of which will be accessible through the MacBook air students will receive.

Funding for the MacBook Airs comes mostly from the 2016 EPISD Bond voters approved in November, although some funds also came from the state’s instructional materials allotment.

All high-school freshmen will receive a computer this school year, as well as all students at MacArthur, Terrace Hills, Richardson, Hornedo, Lincoln, Wiggs, Brown, Ross, Canyon Hills and Magoffin middle schools. Students at all other EPISD middle schools received a new data-enabled iPad last year.

EPISD in 2015 distributed 18,000 laptops to high-school students.

“We are fulfilling a promise to the community here,” said Board President Trent Hatch. “Student success is our top priority, and this investment on laptop computers is going to go a long way in helping us help students achieve their academic goals.”

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