To whom it may concern:

The 1:1 initiative was conducive to bridging the achievement gap for my homebound students. With the absence of Chromebooks for the 2017-2018 school year, I am concerned that my students will not only fall behind, but ultimately fail due to the decreased access to instruction through technology.

There are numerous resources I make available to my students via the internet such as: teaching videos on KHAN Academy, virtual labs on FOSS, YouTube videos of experiments shared by science teachers, and several online textbooks for information purposes. Without the Chromebook, students would need a computer with Microsoft Office and internet access to continue taking advantage of these online resources.

While researching ways to make homebound more effective, I began making plans for the new school year. In addition to the two hours per week I spend physically (Face to Face) with the students, I planned on video conferencing with students from my office. Our district already has technology that could be utilized: air writer, smart board, projection camera, desk top computer, etc. Students, mainly high school, would also be required to email me and their regular classroom teachers at least twice weekly for increased communication purposes. Increased communication between the student and teachers is crucial to bridging the gap while students are on homebound. It creates more accountability for the students and reminds the teachers to put resources out there for the student.

In order for the homebound program to keep up with current technology standards, increase student achievement, and reduce gaps in homebound instruction; I request the following items:

* A Chromebook or laptop with Microsoft office
* Digital copies of textbooks used in the classroom
* Temporary hotspots for my students without internet access at home
* A distance-learning center in my office

Working with our technology department, I know that we can close the achievement gap between homebound instruction and school-based instruction. I appreciate your time and consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Angie Penix

Montgomery County Homebound Teacher

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