



# NAVIGATING ECF AND ESSER FUNDS

YOUR GUIDE TO DEVICE DISPOSAL





## GOOD NEWS FOR SCHOOLS: YOU HAVE OPTIONS!

Remember those devices your school purchased with federal funds like the Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF) or Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER)? Well, we've got some exciting news for you! After a 3-year holding period, you have more flexibility than you might think when it comes to disposing of this equipment.

### THE OFFICIAL WORD

This isn't just our opinion – it's straight from the federal rulebook. The Code of Federal Regulations (2 CFR 200.313) lays out the guidelines for managing and disposing of equipment acquired with federal awards.

Here's what it says in plain English:

**"Items of equipment with a current per unit fair market value of \$5,000 or less may be retained, sold or otherwise disposed of with no further responsibility to the Federal awarding agency."**

Key point: "per unit" means each individual device, not the total value of all your devices.

### WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Let's break down the key points:

1

#### THE 3-YEAR RULE

After holding the devices for 3 years, you have options for disposal.

2

#### INDIVIDUAL VALUE MATTERS

These rules apply to devices with an individual fair market value of \$5,000 or less (which covers most school devices like iPads, Chromebooks, and laptops).

3

#### SELL, KEEP, OR DISPOSE

You can choose to sell these devices, keep them, or dispose of them as you see fit.



## UNDERSTANDING THE IMPLICATIONS

This federal guideline is designed to give schools more autonomy in managing their technology assets. It recognizes that most individual devices, such as iPads or laptops, will fall well below the \$5,000 threshold. **This means that for the majority of your ECF or ESSER-funded devices, you have the freedom to make decisions that best serve your school's needs after the initial 3-year period.**

Whether you choose to keep using the devices, sell them to fund new purchases, or dispose of them to make room for newer technology, the choice is yours. This flexibility allows schools to adapt to changing technological needs and budgetary considerations without being tied down by overly restrictive federal oversight on lower-value items.

## WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOUR SCHOOL

Flexibility	Potential Funding Source	Simplified Process	Optimal Timing
After 3 years, you're not locked into keeping outdated tech.	Selling these devices could help fund your next tech upgrade.	For most devices (remember, under \$5,000 value each), you don't need special permission to sell or dispose of them.	Here's a crucial tip: trade-in value starts to decrease significantly after the 3.5-year mark. By acting promptly after the 3-year holding period, you can maximize the value of your devices!

## THE 3.5-YEAR SWEET SPOT

While you gain the freedom to sell or dispose of devices after 3 years, there's an additional timing factor to consider:

- **Peak Value Window:** The period between 3 and 3.5 years is your golden opportunity to get the best trade-in value for your devices.
- **Why It Matters:** After 3.5 years, the trade-in value often starts to decline more rapidly. This means waiting too long could result in significantly less funding for your future tech investments.
- **Balancing Act:** By planning ahead, you can time your device turnover to meet both federal requirements and maximize your returns.

Remember, striking while the iron is hot can make a substantial difference in the value you recoup from your ECF or ESSER-funded devices!



## UNDERSTANDING SPECIAL CASES

While most school devices fall under the \$5,000 per-unit threshold, it's good to know the rules for all scenarios:

### HIGH-VALUE INDIVIDUAL EQUIPMENT (Over \$5,000 per unit)

You still have options, but there are a few extra steps.

You may need to report to or share proceeds with the federal agency.

Don't worry – this rarely applies to individual devices like iPads or Macbooks.



### TRANSFERRING EQUIPMENT

You can transfer individual devices to another eligible program or entity.

This could be useful for district-wide redistribution of technology.

### SELLING HIGH-VALUE INDIVIDUAL ITEMS

If you do sell items over \$5,000 per unit, you might share proceeds with the federal agency.

But you can keep \$500 or 10% (whichever is less) for handling expenses.



### WHEN IN DOUBT

If you're unsure about any disposal actions for specific devices, you can always ask the federal awarding agency for guidance.

Remember, these special cases are rare for most school technology. For the vast majority of individual devices, you have the freedom to retain, sell, or dispose of them as you see fit after the 3-year period.

## WHY THIS MATTERS



### BUDGET BOOST

Selling old devices can help fund new technology initiatives



### STAY CURRENT

Don't let outdated tech hold your students back



### SPACE SAVER

Clear out storage areas and make room for new resources

## HOW SECOND LIFE MAC CAN HELP

At Second Life Mac, we specialize in making the device buyback process easy for schools. Here's how we can assist with your ECF or ESSER-funded devices:

1

**Valuation:** We'll help determine the fair market value of your individual devices.

2

**Compliance:** Our process ensures you're following all federal guidelines for each device.

3

**Maximized Returns:** Get the best value for your used devices, whether you have 10 or 10,000.

4

**Hassle-Free Process:** We handle everything from pickup to data security for every single device.

## READY TO EXPLORE YOUR OPTIONS?

If your school has ECF or ESSER-funded devices approaching or past the 3-year mark, it's time to consider your next steps. Let **Second Life Mac** help you navigate this process and turn those old devices into new opportunities for your students.

Contact us today to learn more about how we can assist with your federally funded device disposal and buyback needs. Let's unlock the value in your old tech and fuel your school's digital future!