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Microsoft Class Action Vouchers for Educational Institutions

Introduction

In 2018, Canadian courts approved a settlement in the case of *Pro-sys et al. v. Microsoft Corporation et al.* The first part of the settlement was for consumers and purchasers of volume licenses, such as large businesses. Hundreds of Canadian businesses and thousands of individual consumers have already participated in that claims process.

A portion of the remaining settlement funds are being made available to K-12 schools and post-secondary institutions to support students across Canada with access to new computer hardware, software, and related training.

Key Steps

Step 1: Get your voucher. Educational institutions have been selected by a committee and will receive a voucher for the approved amount of money for hardware and/or software.

- K-12 schools get vouchers for software and hardware.
- Post-secondary institutions get vouchers for software only.

Step 2: Purchase new hardware or software from a list of Approved Products. Institutions may purchase whatever their students need from the list of Approved Products (see below).

Step 3: Get reimbursed. Institutions will send a copy of the voucher and proof-of-purchase to the Claims Administrator, Epiq Class Action Services Canada Inc. Epiq is responsible for approving claims and providing reimbursement.

FAQs

What proof of purchase do you need?

The proof of purchase must include the original receipt or a copy of the original receipt for the purchase of the Approved Products.

Institutions are not required to present a technology plan to use their vouchers.

Do we have to use our full voucher amount all at once?

No. If you submit valid proof-of-purchase for Approved Products adding up to *less* than the full voucher amount, Epiq will reimburse the institution for the purchases and issue a new voucher for the remaining balance.

What's on the list of Approved Products?

Vouchers can be used to receive reimbursement for any of the following Approved Products:

- Personal computer hardware using Windows software, including peripheral devices such as keyboards, mice, cooling bases, LifeCams, LifeChat, Wireless Displays, and Wireless adapters (this does not need to be Microsoft hardware, but must be a PC that uses Windows – Apple MacBooks and Google Chromebooks are not eligible);
- Microsoft Surface, Surface Pro, and Surface Hub;
- Microsoft Windows;
- Microsoft Azure;
- Microsoft Productivity Suites (including Office 365 subscriptions, Dynamics 365 subscriptions, and constituents such as One Drive);
- Microsoft Developer Tools;
- Microsoft Enterprise Mobility (including Azure Active Directory, Azure Info Protection, Azure RemoteApp, Azure Rights Management, Cloud Application Security, Enterprises Mobility, and Security Intune Multifactor Authentication);
- Microsoft Server Operating Systems (including Biztalk, Exchange, Health Solutions, SharePoint, SQL, and System Center); and
- Other Microsoft Software (including Minecraft, Minecraft Education Edition, and Intune).

**Microsoft may add more products to this list.

Can vouchers be used for professional development?

Institutions can also put part of their voucher amount toward professional development directly related to the new hardware and/or software. Microsoft-certified trainers will be available to provide training remotely or in-person where possible.

For the post-secondary institutions, this will include Microsoft software certification exams for students.

To ensure accessibility for all students, all Microsoft software now includes adaptive features and functionality for students with special needs.

What institutions cannot use vouchers for?

- Vouchers cannot be used to cover the cost of substitute teachers.
- Vouchers cannot be used for internet and bandwidth.
- Vouchers cannot be used for Apple or Google hardware (including MacBooks and Chromebooks).
- No previous purchases of hardware and software from the current or past years are eligible.
- Vouchers cannot be sold or transferred.

Program Timeline

The settlement funds will be distributed to educational institutions in three stages.

Preliminary Phase

The preliminary phase is happening in the Spring-Summer of 2022. In this phase, an initial \$10 million is being distributed to a small number of selected institutions across Canada.

Institutions were chosen to ensure balanced representation in factors such as region, language of instruction, and populations such as students that are low socioeconomic status, Indigenous, or new Canadians.

- \$5 million will be distributed to 40 K-12 schools across Canada (including 12 in Quebec).
- \$5 million will be distributed to about 50 post-secondary institutions.

Stage 1

By June 30, 2022, Epiq will determine the amount of remaining funds available for educational institutions. We expect this amount to be in the tens of millions.

Schools not selected for the Preliminary Phase can participate in the Stage 1 phase.

Stage 2

By July 2025, there will potentially be a further amount of settlement funds to distribute educational institutions.



Further Information

For further information, please visit the settlement website at: <u>https://www.ThatSuiteMoney.ca/</u>

Inquiries can be directed to the Claim's Administrator:

Epiq Class Action Services Canada Inc. P.O. Box 507 STN B Ottawa ON K1P 5P6 Email: <u>Education@ThatSuiteMoney.ca</u> Telephone: 1-833-451-8815 Fax: 1-866-262-0816

