What options are available for schools and families to access technology?

Two school districts in Dutchess County have successfully implemented a 1-to-1 model of technology distribution. This is how they did it:

The Arlington Central School District was able to provide Chromebooks to all students who needed them as well as purchase hotspots for homeless students. The school was able to notify parents and families through the student communication system, but the system does not include students who are placed outside of the Arlington school district (such as a BOCES program) so the district directly contacted these families. The district was able to secure funding for technology by not ordering physical textbooks, reprioritizing the district's budget, and using some of the money allocated for technology to provide Special Education teaching assistants technology. Students with disabilities with Chromebooks were equipped with the necessary applications and software to allow them to access the curriculum.

The Webutuck Central School District began working towards a 1-to-1 model of instructional technology using iPads instead of Chromebooks around 4 years ago. They decided to use iPads because they have more storage space and certain accessibility features that would assist the district's English Language Learner and the population of students with disabilities. The school district also handed out hotspots to students and broadened the broadband and connectivity infrastructure with funds from a capital project that was implemented before the pandemic. This plan was effective due to the small size of the district and the original 1-to-1 initiative that began four years ago, as well as accessing funds through the Smart Schools Bond Act. In regards to special education, the district has an app request form that speech and language/ELL teachers can use to send requests for certain apps to be included in the budget.