

Mississippi Connects

MSConnects Update and Reimbursements
Q&A (HB1788 and SB3044)

November 18, 2020



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Chief Information Officer



VISION

To create a world-class educational system that gives students the knowledge and skills to be successful in college and the workforce, and to flourish as parents and citizens

MISSION

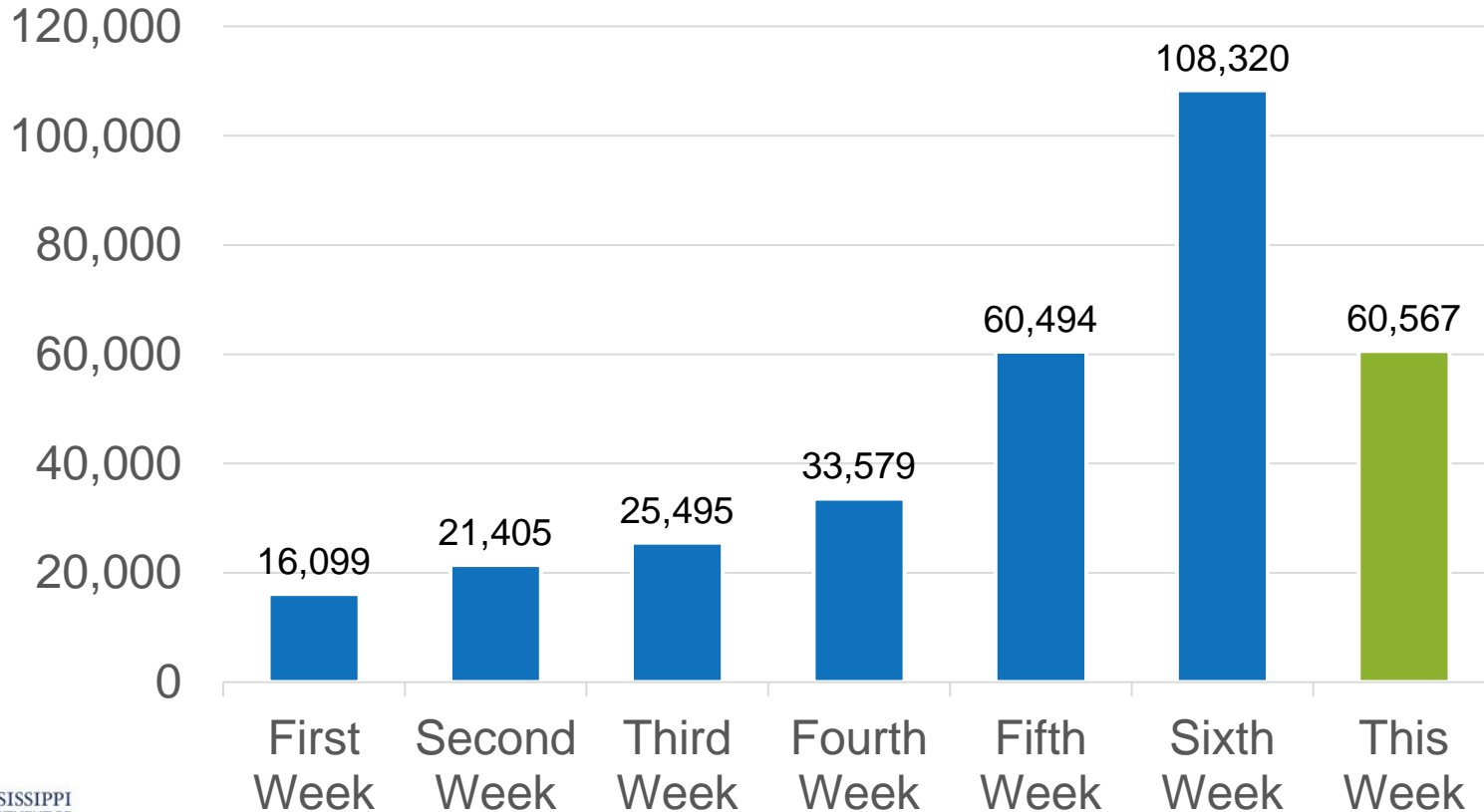
To provide leadership through the development of policy and accountability systems so that all students are prepared to compete in the global community

AGENDA

1. Devices Configuration & Deliveries Updates
2. Review of Reimbursement Deadlines
3. Open Q&A

1. HB1788: "Mississippi Pandemic Response Broadband Availability Act" (MSPRBAA)
2. SB3044: "Equity in Distance Learning Act" (EDLA)
3. HB1814: An Act to Provide for Certain Transfers to the Budget Contingency Fund During FY2021

Weekly Deliveries of 326K EDLA EPL Devices



SB3044 (\$153,700,000):

- 40 requests submitted (12%)

HB1788 (\$50,000,000):

- 7 requests submitted (<1%)

Webinars, Presentations, and Frequently Asked Questions

9/22 - Reimbursement Process - Teams meeting

- Teams meeting with Business Managers
- EDLA Fiscal Toolkit
- EDLA Reimbursement Match Documentation Form
- MSPRBAA Fiscal Toolkit
- MSPRBAA Reimbursement Documentation Form



Deadline Clarification

Updated Guidance

Based on updated guidance from the US Treasury and developed in consultation with the Lt. Governor's Office and the Office of the State Auditor

From Updated US Treasury Guidance

- “[I]n recognition of the likelihood of supply chain disruptions and increased demand for certain goods and services [e.g., installation, configuration] during the COVID-19 public health emergency, if a recipient enters into a contract requiring the delivery of goods or performance of services by **December 30, 2020**, the failure of a vendor to complete delivery or services by **December 30, 2020**, will not affect the ability of the recipient to use payments from the Fund to cover the cost of such goods or services if the delay is due to circumstances beyond the recipient’s control.”

MDE Has Established Three Pathways

Based on updated guidance from the US Treasury and developed in consultation with the Lt. Governor's Office and the Office of the State Auditor for **both SB3044 and HB1788***, the MDE offers three pathways:



#1

- **On-Time Reimbursement**

#2

- **7-Day Extension Reimbursement**

#3

- **90-Day Extension Advance Payment**

Eligibility for an Extension (either Pathway #2 or #3)

- There must be a **purchase order or contract** in place with completion originally intended before MDE's original deadline (December 1st) for reimbursement requests.
- Due to **documented supply chain problems**, vendors will not be able to complete delivery and installation / configuration before MDE's original deadline (December 1st) for reimbursement requests.

Eligibility for an Extension (either Pathway #2 or #3)

- Extension Pathways apply to SB3044 and HB1788
- Extension Pathways apply to EDLA EPL Purchases, Independent Purchases and Connectivity Projects
- Different purchases/projects could follow different pathways, for instance...
 - > e.g., ELDA EPL Purchases on Pathway #1
 - > e.g., Independent Purchases on Pathway #2
 - > e.g., Connectivity Projects on Pathway #3

Requirements & Timeline for Pathway #1: On Time

- All devices and equipment will be delivered and all installation work will be completed **prior to November 20th**, leaving time for districts to pay vendor invoices and submit reimbursement requests to the MDE by the deadline of **December 1st**.
- Submit your reimbursement requests to the MDE by the original deadline of **December 1st**.
- There are no additional steps to take
- All reimbursements will be completed by the December 15th deadline as defined in HB1814.

Requirements & Timeline for Pathway #2: 7-Day Extension

- Due to vendor delays, all devices and equipment will be delivered and all installation work will be completed **prior to December 1st**, leaving time for districts to pay vendor invoices and submit reimbursement requests to the MDE by the deadline of **December 8th**.

Requirements & Timeline for Pathway #2: 7-Day Extension

- Districts requesting a seven-day extension MUST notify MDE by emailing DLExtension@mdek12.org **no later than 5PM on Friday, November 20th**. The email MUST include
 - i. An explanation of the delay and a revised estimated date of delivery and/or completion.
 - ii. An attached contract and/or purchase order [including quotes if necessary] detailing the vendor, the products and/or service being purchased, the quantity and total cost.

Requirements & Timeline for Pathway #2: 7-Day Extension

- Please indicate whether the requested seven-day extension is for SB3044, HB1788 or both – and provide brief description of the purchase or project.
- The MDE will only accept reimbursement requests from districts that request and qualify for a seven-day extension.
- Submit your reimbursement requests to the MDE by the extended deadline of **December 8th**.
- All reimbursements will be completed by the **December 15th** deadline as defined in HB1814.

Requirements & Timeline for Pathway #3: Advance Payment

- Due to vendor delays, all device and equipment will be delivered and all installation work will be completed **after December 1st, but prior to March 8, 2021**, requiring districts to request an advance payment of funds.

Requirements & Timeline for Pathway #3: Advance Payment

- Districts requiring an advance payment (90-day extension) MUST notify MDE by emailing DLExtension@mdek12.org **no later than 5PM on Friday, November 20th**. The email MUST include
 - i. An explanation of the delay and a revised estimated date of delivery and/or completion.
 - ii. An attached contract and/or purchase order [including quotes if necessary] detailing the vendor, the products and/or service being purchased, the quantity and total cost.

Requirements & Timeline for Pathway #3: Advance Payment

- The MDE will only make advance payments to districts that request and qualify for a 90-day extension.
- All advance payments will be made prior to the **December 15th deadline** as defined in HB1814.
- Districts requesting an advance payment and 90-day extension must sign a revised grant letter and additional assurances, and provide additional documentation (e.g., purchase orders, contracts, letters from vendors explaining the delay of goods and services originally expected in 2020) to the MDE by the deadline of **December 1st**. Guidance will be sent to districts that request advance payment.

Key Dates for All Three Pathways

Pathway	Friday, Nov. 20 th	Tuesday, Dec. 1 st	Tuesday, Dec. 8 th	Tuesday, Dec. 15 th	March 8, 2021
#1. On-Time (No Change)	All Deliveries Completed	All Reimbursements Requests Submitted		All Reimbursements Completed / Unobligated Funds Swept	
#2. Seven-Day Extension	Request Due to MDE	All Deliveries Completed	All Reimbursements Requests Submitted	All Reimbursements Completed / Unobligated Funds Swept	
#3. Advance Payment	Request Due to MDE	All Required Advance Payment Documentation Submitted	All Revised Grant Letters and Supplemental Assurances Submitted	All Advance Payments Completed / Unobligated Funds Swept	All Advance Payments Documentation Submitted and Unused Funds Returned

Important Reminders (either Pathway #2 or #3)

- Districts requesting relief via Pathway #2 [seven-day extension] or Pathway #3 [advance payment] MUST notify MDE by emailing DLExtension@mdek12.org **no later than 5PM on Friday, November 20th**, detailing what they are asking relief for (which bill, which expenses).
- Districts that do not notify the MDE of a request for additional time / advance payment by **5PM on Friday, November 20th** will be held to the original **December 1st** deadline for reimbursement requests.

Important Reminders for Pathway #3 Districts

- Districts requesting additional time under Pathway #3 will need to provide documentation (e.g., purchase orders, contracts, letters from vendors explaining the delay of goods and services originally expected in 2020).
- Reporting guidelines for such advance payment will be forthcoming and all districts will be required to return unused funds or funds expended for ineligible expenses under HB1788.
- **Please note that advance payment does not change the obligation of districts to pay vendors only after all equipment are delivered and all services performed.**

1. Email requests for extended time to DLExtension@mdek12.org no later than **5PM on Friday, November 20th**

2. Questions and Answers