

Mississippi Succeeds: Digital Learning Plan

The EDLA Implementation PART 3:
Eligibility, Connectivity and Reimbursement

August 13, 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

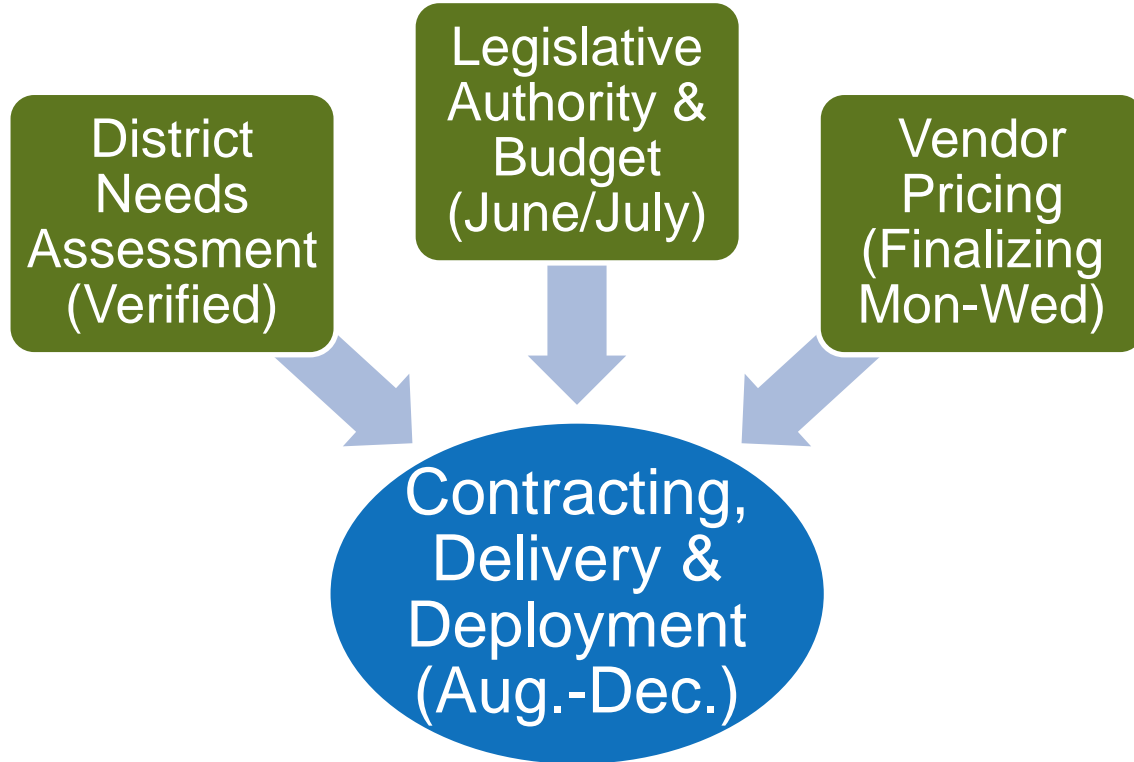
MISSION

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

Digital Learning Plan Components

1. **Devices and services:** Laptops or tablets for all students who need one
2. **Connectivity:** Data plans with hotspots to connect to the internet
3. **Digital curriculum and learning management systems:** High-quality instructional materials and the best online platform(s) to deliver them
4. **Professional development for teachers, parents and school staff:** Training teachers how to deliver instruction online and training parents how to support their children with technology at home
5. **Computer security, planning, and support:** Device management, software, network configuration and accessibility
6. **Tele-health/Tele-therapy:** Devices, connectivity, curriculum and professional development will support student access to tele-health/tele-therapy and social-emotional learning

Discovery and Planning: June-December 2020



Equity in Distance Learning Act (SB3044) Eligibility

1. Equity in Distance Learning Act Application
2. Digital Learning Plan – Technical (including Sustainability)
3. Digital Learning Plan – Policy, Teaching and Content (including Acceptable Use Policy)
4. Digital Learning Plan – Special Education and Special Populations

EDLA Technical

EDLA Digital Learning Plan: Technical			Explain your Digital Learning Plan (if any answer is final, please indicate by when you are final)
Local Education Agency:			
LEA Point of Contact:			
#	Topic	Questions	
1	Devices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Including the laptops/tablets you have in place today, and adding the new laptops/tablets you plan to purchase through the EDLA Program (based on your verified needs assessment), please provide assurance that all students and teachers will have a laptop/tablet beginning this fall through at least June 2023. If you do NOT plan to provide a laptop/tablet to ALL students and/or teachers, please explain which students/teachers will not get a laptop/tablet, why they do not need a such a device, and your plan to teach students via digital learning without a device. 	
2	Configuration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How will your laptops/tablets be configured so your technical staff can manage them remotely via the internet (versus working within your network)? Are all software packages up to date? How will you keep them up to date? 	
3	Configuration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How will your district ensure all district-owned devices will have web content filtering? Explain the policies and procedures for reviewing and testing to ensure that inappropriate content is blocked. 	
4	Other Technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beyond laptops/tablets, describe other technology and network equipment you are requesting to be purchased through the EDLA Program to support digital learning and the technology needs of students and/or teachers working from home. 	
5	Learning Management Systems (LMS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Including the LMS licenses you have in place today, and adding the new licenses you will purchase through the EDLA Program (based on your verified needs assessment), please provide assurance that all students and teachers will have an LMS license beginning this fall through at least June 2023. If you do NOT plan to provide an LMS (license) to all students and/or teachers, explain which students/teachers will not get an LMS license, why they do not need one, and your plan to teach students via digital learning without an LMS. 	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Please detail your district's list of approved software and other online tools that 	

EDLA Policy, Teaching, Content

EDLA Digital Learning Plan: Policy, Teaching and Content

Local Education Agency:		Explain your Digital Learning Plan (if any answer is final, please indicate by when you)
LEA Point of Contact:		
#	Topic	
15	Responsible Use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe how your district has updated your acceptable use policy to address the use of devices and other technology purchased under the EDLA Program. The policy shall include a provision requiring students, parents or guardians, teachers, administrators and other staff to agree in writing to the provisions in the policy, and may include fines for intentional loss or damage to devices. The policy shall also include a provision acknowledging that the school shall assume control of ownership and liability for devices and other equipment purchased under this grant program. Do your security and privacy policies reflect the needs and risks of students and teachers working from home?
16	Modality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe your district's policies and expectations regarding attendance and student/teacher interactions in the traditional, synchronous, asynchronous, or hybrid settings.
17	Continuity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explain your plan for instruction to continue -- whether you are starting the school year in a traditional, hybrid, or digital (synchronous or asynchronous) mode -- in the event that COVID-19 leads to school closures or groups of students are quarantined at home. Are you able to continue essential functions remotely, including instruction, technical operations, child nutrition, and leadership (including school board meetings)?
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How has the district designed and deployed a robust digital communication

EDLA Digital Learning Plan: Special Education and Populations

Local Education Agency:

LEA Point of Contact:

Explain your Digital Learning Plan (if any final, please indicate by when)

#	Topic	Questions
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Student needs vary by population; districts need to address the needs of all populations -- students with disabilities, students from poverty, English learners, and students in foster care -- learning from home through digital learning.

38	Supporting Parents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe how your district will provide training and supports to parents and external providers to ensure that students with special needs are provided the services required. How can you assist parents with collecting data to track student progress? How will you work with parents to help increase student performance?
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39	Providing Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe how your district will provide appropriate services at home to ALL students receiving special services in school. What access and support issues require special attention or accommodation? How will the student's learning environment in a digital learning program ensure that all required special education and related services are provided?
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40	Accessibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe your district's capacity to provide students access to accessibility features such as audiobooks, closed captioned hearing, and access to enlarged print on computer.
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Additional Notes/Comments:

Next Steps

8/6

- The MDE negotiates vendor contracts and board approval

Week
of 8/17

- The MDE will host Webinars: Digital Learning Plans, etc.

Week
of 8/24

- The MDE will host Final Webinar: Digital Learning Plans, etc.

Week
of 9/1

- *Districts submit applications w/required plans & assurances*

9/11

- Final date for district to submit purchase orders to vendors

Sept

- Vendor webinars and Professional Development begins

FALL

- Delivery, deployment, training & professional development

Final Allocation under SB3044

1. The MDE is finalizing the contracts this week

On Monday, August 17th, the MDE will provide

- a. Final Allocation Forms for each district
- b. The District Assurances required for eligibility
- c. Schedule of webinars to support district efforts to complete the digital learning plans
- d. If any district's answers are preliminary or otherwise not final, indicate by when your plans will be finalized

What is due on September 1st

1. Equity in Distance Learning Act Application
[submit to grantapp@mdek12.org]
2. Digital Learning Plan with Sustainability Plan
[new SharePoint folder], along with...
 - a. Copy of your updated Acceptable Use Policies
 - b. District Assurances

September 1st Submission

1. MDE will host webinar week of August 17th to discuss submission details
2. All applications and supporting documentation are due no later than September 1st
3. We will accept early submissions / late submissions will not be accepted.
4. We have created a SharePoint environment to help manage the Digital Learning Plan submission and approval process
5. Watch email to enroll into the SP environment so that you can use your local login credentials to access your folder

New SharePoint Folder

1. We have created a SharePoint environment to help manage the Digital Learning Plan submission and approval process
2. New SharePoint Folder for each district superintendent, tech coordinator and business manager
3. Watch email from gauravmasram@mdek12.org to enroll into the SharePoint environment so that you can use your local login credentials to access your folder

HB1788

Connectivity

The Mississippi Pandemic Response
Broadband Availability Act

1. The MDE is working on an analysis of Federal Communications Commission (FCC) broadband data to identify the “unserved areas” of the state.
2. The MDE is reaching out to Mississippi Association of Independent Schools and the administrations of the Native American tribal school districts.
3. The MDE is working with the Telecommunications companies to determine their best plans to increase internet connectivity for student and teachers.

Determine the broadband accessibility rate of households in each Census Tract

1. Public School Students
2. Tribal School Students
3. Private School Students

Determine the best plans offered by each telecommunications company/carrier

1. Best pricing for internet access
2. Post links to these plans on the MDE website

HB1788 Part 3: District Allocations

Determine each district's allocation based on the cost multiplied by the number of “unserved” students.

1. It may be that the \$50 million is enough to cover the total cost, less than or more than what is needed.

Districts will provide their approach to internet connectivity in their Digital Learning Plan and Assurances under SB3044.

1. If you believe that your plan will cost less than your allocation, you will need to let us know to reduce your allocation to fit your plan. These funds cannot be used for any other purpose, and will need to be returned to the MDE if unspent or ineligible prior to December 1st

SB3044

Reimbursement

Equity in Digital Learning Act

Upcoming Webinars with Device Vendors

Once the MDE has finalized the contracts with Apple and CDW-G, we will schedule a series of webinars to walk you through next steps:

- a. Information related to the pre-enrollment and tagging of the new devices
- b. Information related to ordering process
- c. Information related to delivery schedule and logistics
- d. Information related to support, including break-fix and repair services

District Eligibility

1. Prioritize purchase of products listed in SB3044
2. Match 20% of the funds received under this grant program
3. Purchase products from vendors listed on the Express Products List (EPL)
4. Submit the original, itemized receipt of purchase with district's request for reimbursement
5. Secure insurance and submit proof of insurance
6. **Submit by September 1:** Distance Learning Plan, Technology Sustainability Plan and Responsible Use Policy
7. Compile and maintain inventory

Eligible Expenses

Priority #1: Laptop computers, tablets, or other devices that can be used by a student or teacher in their home

Priority #2: Learning management systems, software and other online tools

Priority #3: Enhance internet connectivity

Priority #4: Enhance security related to devices or connectivity to comply with state and federal law

Priority #5: Professional development related to use of components of distance learning for teachers and students

Priority #6: Health and safety materials or equipment for schools

Reimbursement of the Full State Allocation Amount

1. Expenses included under the Equity in Distance Learning Act (SB3044) with MDE-defined minimum specifications listed on Express Products List (EPL) will be reimbursed.
2. Expenses equivalent to those with MDE-defined minimum specifications listed on EPL will be reimbursed. Districts will need to “upgrade” expenses below MDE minimum specifications in order to be reimbursed.
3. Expenses without MDE-defined minimum specifications listed on EPL, the districts will need to account for how their expenses support their Digital Learning Plan submitted by Sept. 1st.

Final Allocation and Reimbursement Amounts

1. Express Products List – MDE establishing through the vendors, separate from ITS's EPL
2. The final allocation is the final amount your district will receive per device and LMS
3. Professional Development is included in the price

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"Equity in Distance Learning Act"

Questions?