

Mississippi Succeeds: Digital Learning Plan

PART 5: Final EDLA Guidance

August 20, 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

1. Revised Assurances, etc.
2. Allocations
3. Final Allocation with HB1788 Connectivity
4. Digital Learning Plan Guidance

Revised Assurances

#2b: No later than September 11, 2020 “Place all device orders listed in your district’s Final EDLA Allocation Document through the approved vendors on the MDE EDLA Express Products List.”

#11c: By December 2021, “Describe your district’s plan for identifying the number of digital learning coaches/trainers among your teachers and administrators who will be prepared to assist with training in your districts.”

#9: “The grantee assures and agrees to fully participate in any surveys or other data collection regarding your district’s ongoing sustainability planning.” This is the only assurance regarding sustainability.

Revised Grant Application

The MDE has revised the grant application to reflect both the correction to assurance #22 regarding private schools and the revised Budget Table released on 8/25.

EDLA Express Product List

EDLA Express Product List (EPL): To clarify any miscommunications or misunderstandings regarding MDE's EDLA Express Product List (EPL):

Per SB3044 – the Equity in Digital Learning Act (EDLA) – districts may purchase devices from vendors not listed on the MDE's EDLA EPL provided the devices meet the following criteria:

- a. The devices meet or exceed the technological specification and functionality required by the MDE, and
- b. The devices can be purchased at a price less than any of the prices listed on the MDE's EDLA EPL for a comparable product.

“Comparable” includes meeting all requirements spelled out in SB3044, as well as the technological specification and functionality required by the MDE.

EDLA Timeline and Important Deadlines

August 28th	The MDE shares final EDLA Allocations to Districts based on ELDA Devices contracts
September 1st	Final deadline for Districts to submit their Digital Learning Plans and EDLA Applications
September 11th	Deadline for Districts to place Device orders with Apple and CDW-G
September 18th	The MDE to reallocate any unobligated EDLA Funds for EDLA-related reimbursements
October 1st	The MDE to report to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Chairs of the Senate and House Appropriations and Education Committees on the use of funds distributed under this grant program and the effectiveness of distance learning plans adopted by schools
November 1st	The MDE to reallocate any unobligated EDLA Funds for broader CARES Act reimbursements.
November 20th	Deadline for vendors to complete delivery of EDLA Devices (delivery will be ongoing throughout the fall)
December 1st	Deadline for districts to request reimbursement as outlined in the EDLA Application
December 29th	EDLA Funding lapses.

Key Information for Districts

1. Timeline and Important Deadlines
2. Required Application Materials
3. SB3044 Equity in Distance Learning Act Webinars
4. HB1788 Connectivity Guidance Webinars
5. More coming...



Final Allocation

1. **Point of Contact (POC):** The district Point of Contact (POC) for this project.
2. **Devices and Learning Management Systems (LMS):**
 - a. Devices to be reimbursed through the Equity in Distance Learning (EDLA) Program
 - i. Devices purchased independently (outside the EDLA EPL)*
 - ii. Devices purchased thru MDE's EDLA EPL
 - b. LMS Licenses to be to be reimbursed through the Equity in Distance Learning (EDLA) Program
3. **Funding:**
 - a. EDLA State Allocation
 - b. District Responsibility
 - c. Total Funding
4. **Total Funding under HB1788**
 - a. Funding to support your connectivity needs

* Devices purchased outside the EDLA EPL that are eligible for reimbursement through the EDLA Program: devices that meet or exceed the technological specification and functionality required by the MDE, and can be purchased at a price less than any of the prices listed on the MDE's EDLA EPL for a comparable product.

EDLA Required

Digital Learning Plan

Policy, Teaching and Content

“InstDLP.xlsx”

Special Education and Populations

“SpedDLP.xlsx”

Technical

“TechDLP.xlsx”

Digital Learning Plan: Technical

EDLA Digital Learning Plan: Technical			
Local Education Agency:			
LEA Point of Contact:			
#	Topic	Questions	Explain your Digital Learning Plan (if any answer is final, please indicate by when you are final)
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 	

Digital Learning Plan: 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

Digital Learning Plan: Special Education & Populations

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:

Early Observations by MDE Reviewers

- Attachments (board policies, adopted instructional materials, professional development plans) mentioned, but not uploaded
- Missing responses (entirely blank or individual responses)
- Partial answers (instructional materials for only some grades or subject areas mentioned)
- Lack of detail for not only students with disabilities, but also for special populations

District Response Resource (InstDLP & SpedDLP)

- MDE staff have developed a listing of key terms and ideas for the InstDLP and the SpedDLP components of district plans
- Guidance is broken down by question
- Guidance may be helpful for review prior to submission or for editing rejected plans

Next Steps

8/6

- The MDE negotiates vendor contracts and board approval

Week
of 8/24

- Final Digital Learning Plan Guidance and Process Webinar

Week
of 8/24

- HB1788 Connectivity Allocations and Guidance Webinars

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

"Equity in Distance Learning Act"

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