

## **Digital Learning and Device Needs Assessment**

The Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) has requested \$250 million from the legislature to support the MDE's statewide digital learning plan: to support school districts' procurement of devices (including hotspots), learning management systems, digital curricula, and interventions and supports for students. MDE's plan would support schools so they can deliver high-quality instruction digitally to all Mississippi children, whether students are learning from home or at school. If fully funded, the plan would effectively create a 1:1 initiative in every district.

In order to finalize the costs associated with the MDE's digital learning plan, the MDE asks all local education agencies (LEAs) to assess their needs related to the implementation of their digital learning programs, and complete this Digital Learning and Device Needs Assessment, based on the MDE's "Digital Learning District Guidance" document:

[Digital Learning District Guidance](#)

The results of this needs assessment will inform the legislature and allow the MDE to align the available funds with the most critical needs.

### **Purchasing Support to LEAs**

The MDE will use the results of this needs assessment to aggregate statewide totals for each need, and approach vendors to negotiate the best possible price, per student, per school/district, per program. With your needs and vendor pricing, the MDE will execute contracts with the vendors and release grants to each LEA. The LEAs will provide the MDE with assurances to spend the granted funds on the identified needs.

The LEA purchases must be completed by December 31, 2020 before the funds expire.

### **Questions**

If you have questions or need further clarifications, please email [survey@mdek12.org](mailto:survey@mdek12.org) before submitting this survey.

### **Submission Deadline**

Submission deadline is June 5th, 2020 at 5:00 PM, CDT.

**Point of Contact**

Please identify the LEA Point of Contact, including contact information.

LEA Name\*

Person of Contact Name\*

What is your role within the LEA?

(Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, Technology Coordinator, Curriculum Coordinator, etc.)\*

Phone number\*

Email address\*

## **CARES Act Funding**

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act), signed into law on March 27, 2020, allows states and school districts to devote more of their federal resources to technology infrastructure to support distance learning for students and for professional development for teachers who are teaching remotely, many for the first time.

Please list the anticipated, allowable LEA activities and their respective percentages of CARES Act funds from your local allocation for each of the following categories.

*The sum of the numbers entered must equal 100.*

- Purchasing of educational technology
- Planning and implementing summer activities
- Providing mental health services and supports
- Purchasing supplies/PD for staff to sanitize and clean
- Planning and coordinating long-term closures
- Any activity under ESEA, IDEA, etc.
- Other activities to keep operations going

## Mobile Devices

In a 1:1 initiative, all students and teachers have a stable, functioning laptop or tablet. LEAs should factor into their plans the age of existing devices (devices older than three years need to be replaced), whether devices are stable/functioning and completely up-to-date, and the age appropriateness of the type of device (elementary school students may need a different type of device than high school students).

Does your LEA need support from the state to purchase mobile devices?\*

Yes

No

## Devices

How many mobile devices will your LEA need to procure for the fall of 2020 to provide each student and teacher with a device? Consider replacing any current devices older than three years.

	Elementary	Middle/High	Teacher
Windows laptop			
MacBook			
Chromebook			
iPad			
Other			

What would you consider an adequate processor for student use?

(Intel i3, i5, i7, Snapdragon 655, etc...)

	Elementary	Middle/High	Teacher
Windows laptop			
MacBook			
Chromebook			
iPad			
Other			

What would you consider an adequate amount of RAM for student use?

(4GB, 8GB, 16GB, etc...)

	Elementary	Middle/High	Teacher
Windows laptop			
MacBook			

Chromebook			
iPad			
Other			

What would you consider an adequate amount of data storage space?

e.g., the size of the solid-state drive (SSD)

	Elementary	Middle/High	Teacher
Windows laptop			
MacBook			
Chromebook			
iPad			
Other			

Does your LEA require built in cellular data support? Please enter yes or no in each field.

(a sim card)

	Elementary	Middle/High	Teacher
Windows laptop			
MacBook			
Chromebook			
iPad			
Other			

If you selected other, please give details (make, model, specifications) of the devices you require.

### Mobile Device Training and Support

Does your LEA need support from the state to purchase device training, support (helpdesk), and service (repair/replacement) for your end-users?\*

	Training	Support (helpdesk)	Service (repair/replacement)	None
Student & Parents				
Teachers				
Instructional Technologists				
Technical Staff				

## **Mobile Device Management**

LEAs should factor into their plans the how to manage devices OFF campus. Considerations include tracking the location of the devices, keeping software on the devices up-to-date, and manage the security of the devices remoting into LEA networks and applications.

Does your LEA need support from the state to purchase and implement mobile device management for devices OFF campus?\*

Yes

No

## **Mobile Device Management Assessment**

Which management suite(s) do you use to manage devices assigned to students and teachers to use at home?\*

- Filewave
- Google for Education
- Intune
- JAMF
- None
- Other

How would you rate the effectiveness of the implementation of your management suite?\*

- Not Implemented
- Poor
- Fair
- Good
- Excellent

Does your staff require additional training for your device management solution?\*

Yes

No

## **Web Filtering**

LEAs should factor into their plans how they will filter internet content consistent with the Federal Child Internet Protection Act (CIPA).

Does your LEA need support from the state to purchase and implement web filtering for devices OFF campus?\*

Yes

No

## **Web Filtering Assessment**

What filtering platform(s) do you use to filter your devices OFF campus?\*

- Blocksi
- Fortigate
- iBoss
- Lightspeed
- LineWize (FamilyZone)
- Securly
- Umbrella
- None
- Other

How would you rate the effectiveness of the implementation of your filtering solution OFF campus?\*

- Not Implemented
- Poor
- Fair
- Good
- Excellent

Does your staff require additional training for your web filtering solution?\*

Yes

No

## **Mobile Hotspots**

The state is working to expand affordable, reliable, high-speed internet access to all communities and families across the state. Until that goal is achieved, LEAs should factor into their plans how they will assist families access the internet allowing all students to participate in their digital learning programs using mobile hotspots and other strategies.

Does your LEA need support from the state to purchase Mobile Hotspots with an annual data plan to help students and teachers access the internet at home?\*

Yes

No

## **Mobile Hotspot Quantity**

How many mobile hotspots with an annual data plan does your LEA need?\*

Who is your preferred state contract provider?\*

C-Spire

AT&T

No Preference

## Cloud Directory Services

LEAs should factor into their plans how students, teachers and other staff will be credentialled to log into LEA networks and applications. The fewer and stronger log in credentials will be easier on end-users and more secure.

What cloud directory service(s) are you actively using?\*

- Azure Active Directory
- Google Directory
- None
- Other

Do your students have accounts in your directory service(s)?\*

- Yes
- Some, but not all
- No

Are your student accounts synchronized from your local SIS package?\*

Yes

No

Does your LEA need support from the state to purchase Cloud Directory Service training, support and service?\*

Yes

No

## Learning Management Systems (LMS)

An LMS provides teachers with an online tool to create and deliver content, monitor student participation and assess student performance. It may also provide students with the ability to use interactive features such as video conferencing and discussion forums. LEAs should factor into their plans which LMS is the best option for each grade band.

Examples of “Off the Shelf” learning management systems include Blackboard, Canvas, Grade Results, Moodle, Schoology, and Google Classroom.

Important factors in selecting an LMS include the grade level of your students, technical skills of your instructional and technical staff, per pupil costs, use of multimedia content, use of assessments, communications between teachers and students/parents, accessibility needs, and technical support needs.

Are your course rosters (i.e., data regarding students, teachers, and classes) synchronized from your local SIS package to your LMS?\*

Yes

No

Do not have an LMS

Does your LEA need support from the state to purchase one or more Learning Management Systems (LMS)?\*

Yes

No

**Learning Management Systems (LMS)**

Please indicate how many licenses you have and indicate the number additional licenses you need to be served by each LMS.

Please enter 0 if you have no students that need to be served by this LMS.

	Licenses in place for SY2020-21	Additional Licenses needed for SY2020-21	Total
Blackboard			
Canvas			
Google Classroom			
Grade Results			
Moodle			
Schoology			
Other			

Please indicate the total number of licenses you will need by grade band. Please ensure the totals for each vendor above match the totals for each vendor below. Please indicate the total number of licenses you will need for SY2020-21 by grade band.

	Elementary	Middle School	High School	Total
Blackboard				
Canvas				
Google Classroom				
Grade Results				
Moodle				
Schoology				
Other				

If other, please indicate the vendor.

## LMS Training & Support

LEAs should factor into their plans how to provide the training for all LMS users, including students, parents, teachers and instructional technologists, and technical staff. Training resources should be available at the start of the school year and on-demand as needed. LEAs should also work with the LMS vendors to provide training and support end-users throughout the school year.

Does your LEA need support from the state to purchase

- Does your LEA need support from the state to purchase LMS training, support and service for your STUDENTS and PARENTS?\*

Yes

No

- Does your LEA need support from the state to purchase LMS training, support and service for your TEACHERS and INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGISTS?\*

Yes

No

- Does your LEA need support from the state to purchase LMS training, support and service for your TECHNICAL STAFF?\*

Yes

No

Does your LEA need assistance procuring LMS training, support and service for OTHERS? Please identify the other set of end users and the required training, support, and service they require.

**Digital Curricula**

LEAs should factor into their plans how to provide a comprehensive, robust digital/virtual curriculum for all students, grade levels, and subject areas. LEAs should lean on existing resources whenever possible, and focus plans on the delivery of content through the LMS and with available teachers and instructional technologists.

Does your LEA need support from the state to purchase digital/virtual curricula to deliver through your LMS?\*

Yes

No

**Digital Curricula**

Please indicate your LEA’s preferred digital/virtual curricula vendor and by subject indicate in which grades they are used. (Acme Curriculum Inc. ELA: 4,5,6 Math: K,1,2)

Curriculum Vendor	ELA grades served	Math grades served	Science grades served	Social Studies grades served	Other grades served

If other, please indicate the subject area.

## Digital Curricula Training & Support

LEAs should factor into their plans how to provide the training for all end-users, including students, parents, teachers and, and technical staff. Training resources should be available at the start of the school year and on-demand as needed. LEAs should also work with the digital/virtual curricula vendors to provide training and support end-users throughout the school year.

- Does your LEA need support from the state to purchase digital/virtual curricula training, support and service for your STUDENTS and PARENTS?\*

Yes

No

- Does your LEA need support from the state to purchase digital/virtual curricula training, support and service for your TEACHERS and INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGISTS?\*

Yes

No

- Does your LEA need support from the state to purchase digital/virtual curricula training, support and service for your TECHNICAL STAFF?\*

Yes

No

Does your LEA need assistance procuring digital/virtual curricula training, support and service for OTHERS? Please identify the other set of end users and the required training, support, and service they require.

**Intervention Solution**

LEAs should factor into their plans how to assist students needing additional supports (special education, academic/credit recovery, English learner, etc.). These solutions may vary considerably by students and grade levels.

Does your LEA need support from the state to purchase intervention solution for students needing additional supports that will be included in your digital learning strategy?\*

Yes

No

**Intervention Solution**

Please indicate your LEA’s preferred intervention solutions and the number of students needing additional supports by grade band.

Intervention	Vendor	Elementary	Middle School

**Intervention Solution Training & Support**

LEAs should factor into their plans how to provide the training for all end-users – including students, parents, teachers and, and technical staff – who will be involved with intervention solutions. Training resources should be available at the start of the school year and on-demand as needed. LEAs should also work with the intervention solutions vendors to provide training and support end-users throughout the school year.

• Does your LEA need support from the state to purchase intervention solution training, support and service for your STUDENTS and PARENTS?\*

Yes

No

- Does your LEA need support from the state to purchase intervention solution training, support and service for your TEACHERS and INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGISTS?\*

Yes

No

- Does your LEA need support from the state to purchase intervention solution training, support and service for your TECHNICAL STAFF?\*

Yes

No

Does your LEA need assistance procuring intervention solution training, support and service for OTHERS? Please identify the other set of end users and the required training, support, and service they require.

**Accessibility Features**

LEAs should factor into their plans how they will meet the accessibility needs of their students, whether the needed accessibility features are needed on the devices, with the content, or with the learning management system.

Have your LEA identified the accessibility features for devices, online content, software (including the LMS) and other resources that students need to fully participate in digital learning program?\*

Yes

No

**Accessibility Features**

Please indicate the number of students who need each accessibility features by grade band in order for them to fully participate in a digital learning program.

	Elementary	Middle School	High School
Text-to-speech			
Speech-to-text			
Enlarged font sizes or spacing			
Color contrast			
Dictionaries			
Translations			
Other			

If other, please indicate the accessibility feature.

## Accessibility Features Training & Support

LEAs should factor into their plans how to provide the training for all end-users – including students, parents, teachers and, and technical staff – who will use accessibility features. Training resources should be available at the start of the school year and on-demand as needed. LEAs should also work with vendors to provide training and support end-users throughout the school year so that students have command of the accessibility features.

Does your LEA need support from the state to purchase

- Does your LEA need support from the state to purchase accessibility features training, support and service for your STUDENTS and PARENTS?\*

Yes

No

- Does your LEA need support from the state to purchase accessibility features training, support and service for your TEACHERS and INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGISTS?\*

Yes

No

- Does your LEA need support from the state to purchase accessibility features training, support and service for your TECHNICAL STAFF?\*

Yes

No

Does your LEA need assistance procuring accessibility features training, support and service for OTHERS?  
Please identify the other set of end users and the required training, support, and service they require.