

Equity in Distance Learning Implementation: Step 1

This document is intended to inform local school districts regarding Step 1 of the implementation of the [Equity in Distance Learning Act \(SB3044\)](#). School districts are referred to as “schools” in the legislation.

In light of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and having unprecedented federal funding, the purpose of the Equity in Distance Learning Act is to provide students and teachers with the technology and professional development necessary to ensure that all have access to high-quality distance learning aligned to the state’s college- and career-ready standards.

There are three components of this document:

- Page 2 provides an overview of eligible expenses and school district eligibility
- Page 3 provides detailed estimates of
 - the state allocation to school districts and the required 20% school district match
 - the devices and learning management system licenses requested in the (Mississippi Department of Education’s (MDE) June 2020 Needs Assessment
 - any variance between funding available and the cost of the needed devices and learning management system licenses
- Page 4 outlines the proposed minimum device specifications for Chromebooks, Windows Laptops, MacBooks and iPads.

The MDE will host a TEAMS Video Conference on Friday, July 24, from 1:30 to 3:00 PM to walk through this document and the next steps in the implementation of the Equity in Distance Learning Act.

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6868589073986708492>

Step 1: Inform each “school”¹ of its portion of the funds appropriated to the Equity in Distance Learning grant program. The MDE will allocate the Equity in Distance Learning Fund based on average daily membership to support all school districts as they plan and implement distance learning programs.

"Eligible expenses" are intended to facilitate or enhance a school district’s distance learning capabilities under its distance learning plan include the following:

1. **Priority 1:** laptop computers, tablets, assisted learning devices or other devices, which can be used personally by a student or teacher at home or in the classroom
 - Schools shall equip every student with a grade-appropriate device, as recommended by MDE, before incurring the other expenses
 - Included under the price of the device, delivery of professional development
2. **Priority 2:** learning management systems, software and other online tools
 - Included under the price of the learning management system, delivery of professional development
3. **Priority 3:** hardware to provide for or enhance the internet connectivity of a school's students, including the cost of establishing personal or centrally located hotspots;
 - **NOTE:** The MDE will deliver information regarding internet connectivity of students through the Mississippi Pandemic Response Broadband Availability Grant Program (HB1788)
4. Security related to devices or connectivity to comply with state and federal law, and to protect students, teachers and administrators and other staff working within the school
5. Materials or equipment necessary to increase health and safety precautions in classrooms or other school facilities

Eligibility: To be eligible under this grant program, a school shall:

1. Prioritize first the purchase of products listed above
2. Match 20% of the funds received under this grant program²
3. Purchase products from vendors listed on the Express Product List (EPL)
4. Submit the original, itemized receipt of purchase or an authentic copy of the receipt with its request for reimbursement
5. Secure insurance and submit proof of insurance
6. Submit by September 1, 2020:
 - a. Distance Learning Plan
 - b. Technology Sustainability Plan
 - c. Responsible Use Policy
7. Compile and maintain inventory

¹ “School” means public school districts, agricultural high schools, the Mississippi School for the Deaf and Blind, the Mississippi School of the Arts and the Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science and public charter schools.

² Districts that have already procured devices or licenses under SB3044 will be reimbursed the state portion of the negotiated price if: (1) the purchase is dated on or after March 13, 2020, (2) the purchase meets or exceeds the MDE’s minimum specifications (as determined by the MDE), and (3) the district meets all other SB3044 eligibility requirements. As a result, the number of devices or licenses purchased will be subtracted from a school district’s needs assessment total and the cost counted towards the school district’s match requirements.

ALLOCATION	ALLOCATION DETAILS
LEA Name	
Distance Learning POC	
Distance Learning POC email	
Average Daily Membership (ADM): Months 1-9 of 2019-2020	
Estimated ADM-Based Distance Learning Allocation	
Estimated Need-Based Allocation	
Estimated Total State Allocation	
Estimated LEA 20% Match	
ESTIMATED TOTAL FUNDS	

EXPENSES (NEEDS ASSESSMENT)	DETAILS	PRELIMINARY PRICING ³
Requested Device Support		
Devices Purchased TOTAL		
• Purchased Chromebook	\$365.23/ea ³	
• Purchased Windows Laptop	\$700.73/ea ³	
• Purchased MacBook	\$1028.95/ea ³	
• Purchased iPad	\$393.95/ea ³	
EPL Devices to be Purchased TOTAL		
• To Be Purchased Chromebook	\$422.19/ea ³	
• To Be Purchased Windows Laptop	\$757.69/ea ³	
• To Be Purchased MacBook	\$1057.19/ea ³	
• To Be Purchased iPad	\$422.19/ea ³	
Requested Learning Management System Support		
Requested Learning Management System Training and Professional Development		
Learning Management System TOTAL		
• Google Classroom	\$2/seat ³	
• Instructure Canvas	\$7/seat ³	
• Schoology	\$7/seat ³	
TOTAL EXPENSES		

TOTAL FUNDS	TOTAL EXPENSES	VARIANCE

³ All prices are preliminary. Prices may change upon finalization of contracts and license agreements.

*DEVICES SPECIFICATIONS					
Chromebook		Windows Laptop		MacBook	iPAD
Student SKU	Teacher SKU	Student SKU	Teacher SKU	13" MacBook Air	iPad – 7th Generation
AMD 7th Gen A4 class, Intel N4000, or equivalent CPU		Intel Core i3 or equivalent CPU	Intel Core i5 or equivalent CPU	13.3-inch (diagonal), 1440-by-900 resolution, LED-backlit glossy display	32GB Storage Capacity
4GB DDR4 RAM		4GB DDR4 RAM	8GB DDR4 RAM	8GB 1600MHz LPDDR3 SDRAM	Embedded M10 coprocessor
32GB eMMC		128GB SSD	256GB SSD	128GB PCIe-based SSD	A10 Fusion chip
802.11AC wireless		802.11AC wireless		1.8GHz Intel Dual-Core Core i5, Turbo Boost up to 2.9GHz	Embedded M10 coprocessor
11.6" (1366 x 768) screen	Minimum 13" (1366 x 768) screen	11"-13" (1366 x 768) screen	13"-15" (1366 x 768) screen	Intel HD Graphics 6000	10.2-inch (diagonal) LED-backlit Multi-Touch display with IPS technology
720p webcam and microphone		720p webcam and microphone		720p FaceTime HD camera	2160-by-1620-pixel resolution at 264 pixels per inch (ppi)
Headphone jack		Headphone jack		Two USB 3 ports; Thunderbolt 2 port; 3.5 mm headphone jack; SDXC card slot; MagSafe 2 port	8-megapixel camera with f/2.4 aperture
8+ hour battery		8+ hour battery		802.11ac	802.11a/ b/g/n/ac Wi-Fi; dual band (2.4GHz and 5GHz)
Micro SD card reader		Windows 10 Pro		Bluetooth 4.0	
Google auto expiration date must be June 2026 or later		Rugged shell for durability			
Rugged shell for durability		Be able to survive a drop from 30 inches onto a hard surface			
Be able to survive a drop from 30 inches onto a hard surface		Tamper and spill resistant US English keyboard			
Tamper and spill resistant US English keyboard					
COMMON SERVICES & SUPPORT					
3-year accident protection Protective case MDM enrollment and device license.					