



MISSISSIPPI
CONNECTS



SB 3044 – The Equity in Distance Learning Act – Report:

The use of funds distributed under this grant program and the effectiveness of distance learning plans adopted by schools

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1. Timeline

- July 9th: Senate Bill 3044 – The Equity in Distance Learning Act (EDLA) – becomes law
- July 29th: MDE releases Request for Quotations to four vendors for Chromebooks and Windows Laptops. The vendors are CDW-G, Dell, Howard and UDT
- August 3rd: The four vendors responded, and the outside, independent review committee (non-MDE employees) evaluated the vendor responses
- August 4th: MDE issues an intent to award letter to CDW-G for Chromebook and Windows Laptop contract
- August 6th: The Mississippi State Board of Education approves of the contract for Chromebook and Windows Laptop to CDW-G and the separate contract for Apple MacBooks and iPads to Apple – thereby establishing EDLA Express Products Lists
- August 20th: MDE executes contracts with CDW-G and Apple
- September 1st: District EDLA Application Deadline
- September 11th: District EDLA EPL Ordering Deadline
- September 30th: The first delivery of Chromebooks arrives at West Point Consolidated School District
- October 1st: The MDE’s reimbursement window opens

- November 20th: Final Deadline for delivery of devices from CDW-G and Apple under ELDA
- December 1st: The MDE's reimbursement window closes
- December 29th: Any remaining ELDA funds are swept

2. Procurement and Express Products List (EPL)

The Express Products Lists with CDW-G and Apple are attached to this report.

3. Benefits and Services Included

The EPLs with CDW-G and Apple include more than devices, but all support, software and services to deliver working devices to districts while minimizing the immediate and longer-term support costs of districts. The devices will be pre-configured, pre-enrolled in Mobile Device Management, tagged and cased before arriving at districts.

CDW-G Chromebooks and Windows Laptops

- Protective Case (Transparent for Chrome, Always on for Laptop)
- Chromebook Management License - only applicable to Chrome devices
- Chrome White Glove and Asset Tag - only applicable to Chrome devices
- Microsoft Intune License - only applicable on Windows devices
- Windows Intune Imaging and Asset Tag - only applicable to Windows devices
- Extended Warranty
- 3-Year Accidental Damage Protection (Case Required)
- 3-Year Onsite Break Fix
- Cisco Umbrella
- Engineering Support Services
- Ed Tech Impact Analytics
- Digital Learning Training and Professional Development
- Project Oversight and Last Mile Delivery

Apple MacBooks and iPads (Gen 8)

- 3-Year AppleCare+ for Schools - iPad 8th Generation and MacBook Air
- 1-Year AppleCare OS Support – Alliance
- STM Dux Plus Duo for 10.2-inch iPad (8th Generation)
- STM Dux Case for MacBook Air 13"
- APS Custom iPad Deploy Offsite SVCS-USA
- APS Custom Mac Deploy Offsite SVCS-USA
- APS NP Deployment Support
- APS PMO Bundled Services-USA
- JAMF for macOS, iOS and tvOS
- Apple Professional Learning Virtual Support
- Cisco Umbrella

4. Delivery of Devices and Software

Of the 150 Local Education Agencies (LEA) in Mississippi, 148 submitted EDLA Applications and placed their device orders. Districts ordered nearly 390,000 devices: roughly 320,000 through the EDLA EPL and nearly 70,000 independently.

All deliveries will include full-service delivery, including all devices tagged and in cases, with all software, security and support features built in and configured for immediate use, as well as with all packaging materials removed so as not burden districts. CDW-G hired the firm TIG – which hired Mississippians to run its Central Mississippi warehouse and processing facility.

Deliveries began on September 30th to West Point Consolidated School District.ⁱ Tate County will be the second to receive devices on October 2nd. Deliveries will continue on a rolling basis and will conclude by November 20th. Using the Mobile Device Management, districts can begin loading devices with district-approved software – including the district-selected Learning Management Systems – remotely.

5. Reimbursement

- The reimbursement window opens on October 1st for both SB 3044 and HB 1788.
- Districts may submit eligible expenses ordered through the EDLA EPL or ordered independently to MDE for reimbursement.
- Districts are required to submit supporting documentation for EDLA (including the matching funds) and HB 1788 must accompany the request for reimbursement.
- In addition, districts are required to show proof of expending the 20% match prior to receiving reimbursement from the EDLA grant program.
- Independent and Choctaw Tribal schools have identical reimbursement requirements under HB 1788.
- The reimbursement window closes on December 1st for both SB 3044 and HB 1788.

6. Communications with Districts

The MDE hosted a series of webinars to help guide and support districts throughout the implementation of SB 3044 and HB 1788. These webinars were recorded and are available on the MDE's Mississippi Connects webpage: <https://www.mdek12.org/MSCConnectsTech>. This webpage includes important information related to the EDLA program, including the following webinars and related materials:

- SB3044 Equity in Distance Learning Act Webinars
 - 06/03 - Digital Learning Needs Assessment Q&A Webinar
 - 07/24 - Equity in Distance Learning Implementation First Steps Webinar
 - 08/03 - Equity in Distance Learning Act: Continued Discussion and HB 1788

- 08/13 - Equity in Distance Learning Act Implementation Part 3 – Eligibility & Connectivity
- 08/20 - Equity in Distance Learning Act Implementation Part 4 – Digital Learning Plan
- 08/28 - Equity in Distance Learning Act Part 5 - Final Guidance for Digital Learning Plan
- 09/10 - Equity in Distance Learning Act Part 6 – SB 3044 & HB 1788 Discussion
- 09/17 - Equity in Distance Learning Act Part 7 – EDLA EPL and HB1788 Next Steps
- 9/23 - Equity in Distance Learning Act - CDW-G - General Process Overview and Logistics
- 9/30 - Getting to Know G Suite Enterprise for Education
- 10/1 - Microsoft Windows Configuration Process
- HB1788 Connectivity Guidance Webinars
 - 8/25 – HB 1788 Connectivity Guidance with Comcast
 - 8/25 – HB 1788 Connectivity Guidance with Verizon
 - 8/25 – HB 1788 Connectivity Guidance with C-Spire
 - 8/26 – HB 1788 Connectivity Guidance with T-Mobile
 - 8/26 – HB 1788 Connectivity Guidance with AT&T
 - 9/22 – Reimbursement Process - Teams meeting

7. Next Steps

- Additional webinars to support delivery and deployment
- Ongoing break-fix support for devices (supported by extended warranty, accidental damage protection)
- Professional development for teachers
- Deployment of MDE Digital instructional coaches to support teachers
- High-Quality Instructional Materials support from the MDE

8. HB 1788: The Mississippi Pandemic Response Broadband Availability Act

The MDE provided public school districts, independent schools and Choctaw Tribal Schools with their allocations, and continues to provide schools with guidance (including the vendor webinar series listed above). HB1788 does anticipate that school districts and schools will negotiate and contract directly with existing or potential broadband providers.

9. Attachments

- SB 3044 Allocations
- CDW-G EDLA EPL
- Apple EDLA EPL
- HB 1788 Allocations

Pictures from the delivery of 2,261 Chromebooks to West Point Consolidated School Districts, September 30, 2020.



