

**OFFICE OF CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER**  
**Summary of State Board of Education Agenda Items**  
**August 6, 2020**

**OFFICE OF TECHNOLOGY AND STRATEGIC SERVICES**

01. Action: Approval of the methodology for the distribution of \$20 million in Senate Bill 3044 [Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan]

Background and Purpose: The Mississippi Legislature enacted the "Equity in Distance Learning Act" (SB3044) to provide funding for devices and other technology, including technology related to connectivity and online access. This will be sufficient for students, teachers, administrators, and other staff to engage in grade-appropriate distance learning aligned with the state's College and Career Readiness Standards. The MDE is responsible for developing a methodology for distributing \$20,000,000 based on need.

Eligibility: Local education agencies (LEAs) eligible to participate in the "Equity in Distance Learning" Program that identified needs beyond the Average Daily Membership (ADM) based allocation outlined in the "Equity in Distance Learning Act" (SB3044).

Funding Source: Federal Funds – from SB3044 "Equity in Distance Learning Fund"

Basis for Awarding the Grants: Needs-based

This item references Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 of the *Mississippi Board of Education 2018-2022 Strategic Plan*.

Recommendation: Approval

Back-up material: None

### Methodology for the Distribution of \$20 Million in Senate Bill 3044:

1. Review applications from all LEAs submitted by September 1, 2020 in order to determine LEA eligibility.
2. Allocate the ADM-based funds to all eligible LEAs using ADM for Months 1-9 of School Year 2019-2020.
3. Review LEAs' distance learning needs identified in the June 2020 Needs Assessment to determine whether the ADM-based allocation is sufficient to cover identified needs.
4. Determine the remaining distance learning needs after ADM-based allocations and calculate each LEA's proportion of the remaining overall needs.
5. Determine the preliminary State Level allocation (combined ADM-based and Needs-Based allocations) and calculate the 20% match for each LEA in accordance with the LEAs eligibility requirements under the "Equity in Distance Learning Act" (SB3044).
6. Calculate the total amount of available funds and compare against LEAs' total digital learning needs.
7. If the total amount of available funds for an LEA exceeds the costs associated with the LEA's digital learning needs, the amount of the Needs-Based allocation will be reduced to match the cost.
8. All remaining funds will be apportioned to LEAs whose Needs-Based allocation does not cover the costs associated with the LEA's digital learning needs.
9. Notify LEAs regarding their total state allocations so that they can begin requesting reimbursement for eligible purchases that meet the minimum specifications as determined by the MDE in accordance with the "Equity in Distance Learning Act" (SB3044).