

OFFICE OF CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER
Summary of State Board of Education Agenda Items
Consent Agenda
September 24, 2020

OFFICE OF TECHNOLOGY AND STRATEGIC SERVICES

F. Approval of the methodology for the distribution of \$4 million of ESSER Funds to support Distance Learning

Background and Purpose: The Mississippi Legislature enacted SB3044 – the “Equity in Distance Learning Act” (EDLA) – to provide funding for devices and other technology, including technology related to connectivity and online access, sufficient for students, teachers, and administrators and other staff to engage in grade-appropriate distance learning aligned with the state's College and Career Readiness Standards.

Actual pricing for Windows Laptops was higher than anticipated. The purchase of this supplemental grant is to help off-set the higher pricing for Windows Laptops. The MDE is responsible for developing a methodology for distributing \$4,000,000 to districts.

Eligibility: Local education agencies (LEAs) eligible to receive Windows Supplemental Grants are those ordering Windows Laptops through the EDLA Express Product List (EPL).

Funding Source: Federal Funds

Basis for Awarding the Grants: Needs-based

Recommendation: Approval

Back-up material attached

Methodology for the Distribution of \$4 Million in ESSER Funds:

1. Calculate the sum of Windows Laptops districts are ordering through the EDLA EPL.
2. Divide \$4,000,000 by the total number of Windows Laptops districts are ordering through the EDLA EPL.
3. For each district multiple the number of Windows Laptops being ordered by the quotient of step #2 to produce the grant amount per district.
4. Add the grant amount per district to the ELDA Fund as part of the overall funds available for reimbursement (including the SBB3044 allocation and MDE needs-based allocation per district).