

By: Representative Young

To: Education;
Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 151

1 AN ACT TO REQUIRE EACH SCHOOL DISTRICT TO DEVELOP AND
2 IMPLEMENT A WIRELESS TECHNOLOGY INFRASTRUCTURE TO SERVE ALL THE
3 SCHOOLS AND CLASSROOMS IN THE DISTRICT; TO REQUIRE THE DISTRICTS
4 TO DEVELOP A STRATEGIC PLAN TO PROVIDE FOR A TWO-YEAR PHASE-IN
5 PERIOD FOR COMPLETE IMPLEMENTATION; TO REQUIRE DISTRICTS TO
6 CONDUCT THOROUGH NEEDS ASSESSMENTS TO DETERMINE EXISTING ABILITY
7 AND NETWORK CAPACITY AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE NETWORK
8 TRAFFIC; TO REQUIRE SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO ISSUE AND PUBLICIZE
9 REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS WITHIN FORTY-FIVE DAYS OF THE NEEDS
10 ASSESSMENT'S CONCLUSION WHICH SPECIFIES THE CRITERIA TO BE
11 INCLUDED IN PROPOSALS SUBMITTED FOR THE INSTALLATION AND SERVICE
12 OF WIRELESS SYSTEMS; TO REQUIRE SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO SUBMIT THEIR
13 STRATEGIC PLAN OF DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION TO THE STATE
14 DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, WHICH SHALL DETERMINE WHETHER THE
15 WIRELESS CLASSROOM MODULE PROPOSED IS FUNCTIONAL ACCORDING TO THE
16 GUIDELINES ESTABLISHED BY THE DEPARTMENT FOR THE APPROVAL OR
17 DISAPPROVAL OF PROPOSED WIRELESS TECHNOLOGY INFRASTRUCTURE; TO
18 PRESCRIBE THE CRITERIA AND ABILITY OF A SCHOOL DISTRICT'S WIRELESS
19 CAPABILITY REQUIRED TO BE DEMONSTRATED TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF
20 EDUCATION FOR ELIGIBILITY TO RECEIVE STATE FUNDS FOR WIRELESS
21 TECHNOLOGY INFRASTRUCTURE SERVING GRADES K-12; AND FOR RELATED
22 PURPOSES.

23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

24 **SECTION 1.** (1) Each school district in the state shall
25 develop and fully implement, by the 2024-2025 school year, a
26 wireless technology infrastructure to serve all students enrolled
27 and in attendance, as well as the instructional and administrative
28 staff employed in each public school serving students in Grades



29 K-12. Each district shall develop a strategic plan to provide for
30 a two-year phase-in period, beginning with the 2023-2024 school
31 year for complete implementation, which reflects both the newly
32 identified needs of the district in totality and each independent
33 school facility operating therein and the progress made toward
34 plan goals and objectives. A thorough needs assessment shall be
35 conducted examining existing network capacity and the status of
36 all technical equipment, along with research on recommendations
37 for future network traffic.

38 (2) At the conclusion of the needs assessment of system
39 infrastructure, each school district, in order to solicit,
40 encourage and guide the development of a quality wireless school
41 and classroom environment, shall issue and publicize requests for
42 proposals (RFP) within forty-five (45) days of the needs
43 assessment's conclusion. The content and dissemination of the
44 request for proposals must be consistent with the purposes and
45 requirements of this act. The school district's request for
46 proposals must include the following:

47 (a) A clear statement of any preferences the school
48 district desires to incorporate as a feature of its technology
49 development to achieve optimal performance of its wired and
50 wireless network;

51 (b) A description of the infrastructure framework that
52 the district has determined necessary for the continued



administration, operation, oversight and evaluation of the established network system;

(c) The criteria that will guide the district's decision to approve or deny a submitted proposal for installation and service; and

(d) A clear statement of appropriately detailed questions, as well as guidelines, concerning the format and content essential for submitted proposals to demonstrate the capacities necessary to establish and operate a successful wireless technology infrastructure and the district's wide area network internal circuits, that supports wireless access points in every classroom and multiple access points throughout common areas on school campuses.

(3) Each school district shall submit its strategic plan of development and implementation to the State Department of Education, which shall determine whether the wireless classroom module proposed is functional according to the guidelines established by the department for the approval or disapproval of proposed wireless technology infrastructures.

SECTION 2. In order to be eligible to receive state funds for wireless technology infrastructure serving Grades K-12, school districts shall first demonstrate to the State Department of Education that the infrastructure meets or exceeds the following:

(a) **Functionality.** The wireless system shall ensure coverage such that there is sufficient capacity to connect all



mobile computing devices to the wireless local area network (LAN) from any instructional and administrative area in the school. Students and educators will experience a transparent roaming connectivity to the wireless LAN while moving through all rooms and common areas in the school building. The wireless system shall include access to all instructional areas as well as all administrative areas including, at a minimum, academic classrooms for all content areas, frequently used study areas, media centers, assembly spaces, libraries and administrative offices. The functionality shall meet requirements established under this section.

(b) **Validation testing.** System validation testing shall be conducted by school districts in conjunction with the State Department of Education to confirm the wireless installation meets or exceeds the functional requirements and performance and reliability specifications established under this section. The validation test shall provide the school district the opportunity to test its wireless system and assure the State Department of Education that the solution meets or exceeds established performance and reliability standards established by the department. The testing shall include connectivity, usability and reliability during the first year of full implementation. The department reserves the right to require additional testing as deemed appropriate to ensure the ongoing functionality and integrity of the wireless system. All installations shall include



a site work completion and satisfaction verification signed by the responsible individuals designated by both the school district and the department.

(c) **Content filtering and wireless security.** Internet content filtering shall be included as part of any wireless Internet access made available to children, and shall include an acceptable use policy to be agreed to by every individual who accesses and uses the district's wireless technology infrastructure. The filtering solution shall be configurable to school district policies on acceptable, age appropriate Internet content. The content filtering shall include the ability:

(i) For each school to manage its own filtering policies, including the decision to block specific categories of content and to maintain its own whitelist and blacklist overrides;

(ii) To provide individual district utilization and filtering reports, including the most frequently visited websites, the most frequently visited categories, the most frequently blocked websites, search terms most frequently used and the top authenticated users;

(iii) To audit all changes to content filtering;

(iv) For all reporting and management of content filtering to be available through any Internet-connected browser and efficiently perform all content filtering functions; and

(v) To protect against eavesdropping and unauthorized access, which shall include encryption or other



128 techniques to provide assurances that the school district may turn
129 on or off as school district policy indicates.

130 For the purposes of this section, the term "school district"
131 also means a public charter school or its governing board. The
132 State Department of Education shall develop wireless
133 functionality, performance and reliability requirements.

134 **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
135 and after July 1, 2023.

