

By: Representative Young

To: Education

HOUSE BILL NO. 397

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 2021-2022 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 2020-2021 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



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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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



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

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

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

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

122 (iii) To audit all changes to content filtering;

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

126 (v) To protect against eavesdropping and  
127 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, 2020.

