

March 26, 2015

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
House Subcommittee on
Labor, HHS and Education Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
House Subcommittee on
Labor, HHS and Education Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

RE: Support \$200 million for the Enhancing Education Through Technology Program in FY 16

The undersigned organizations — representing educators, state and local education leaders, publishers, and the high-tech industry — urge you to provide \$200 million for the Enhancing Education Through Technology (EETT) program in the final FY 16 Labor, HHS, and Education Appropriations bill. President Obama included a \$200 million funding request for EETT in his FY 16 Budget.

When Congress passed the No Child Left Behind Act, it voiced bipartisan support for EETT, a program focused on technology professional learning for all educators. Although more than a dozen years have passed, the reasons for Congressional support remain strong today.

Technology and blended learning:

- Improve educator effectiveness, integrate data systems and aid low-performing schools
- Provide a robust, student-centered, digitally powered learning experience
- Provide access to unprecedented learning opportunities online for students in rural and other areas that lack sufficient curriculum and course availability
- Help meet the economy's need for tech-savvy students with the technology skills to succeed in an increasingly global economy

EETT funding would ensure access to professional development and digital tools to effectively leverage the improved classroom broadband connectivity made possible by the Federal Communications Commissions' approval of a substantial increase for the E-Rate program.

For digital learning to become a reality nationwide, educators must receive ongoing, sustainable and scalable professional learning opportunities that EETT supports. According to a 2012 survey by Project Tomorrow, one-third of all educators indicated that the lack of sufficient professional development was a major obstacle to implementing technology in the classroom. Like any profession, educators must be supported to continually hone their craft to ensure students reach high academic success. The advent of digital assessments makes even more acute the importance of educator professional learning to harness data to personalize and strengthen instruction to the needs, styles and interests of students.

EETT also has provided support for classroom technologies that open the door to ways of learning that were unimaginable even a few short years ago. Today's students can collaborate, communicate and create content through blogs, wikis, videos and other forms of project-based learning. Modern educators can choose from a wide array of digital textbooks, online resources and assessments that provide real-time feedback of student progress to personalize the learning experience. However, without sufficient funding for devices, appropriate content and professional learning, many schools may find their limitless digital educational choices severely constrained.

Furthermore, funding for EETT would support state and local technology coordinators, who are so critical to successfully implement school technology programs. Technology coordinators possess deep knowledge of technology, an understanding of the particular professional learning needed for its effective classroom use, expertise in network security and implementation, and an understanding of the regulations governing safe and appropriate use. Without EETT funding, many states and school districts may have to do without these critical personnel.

Therefore, we request that the subcommittee provide EETT with \$200 million in FY 16 appropriations.

For more information, please contact Hilary Goldmann, senior director for government relations, International Society for Technology in Education at hgoldmann@iste.org or 703-672-5909.

Sincerely,

AASA, The School Superintendents Association
American Federation of Teachers
American Library Association
Assistive Technology for Education, LLC
Association of American Publishers
Association of Educational Service Agencies
Canon U.S.A., Inc.
Common Sense Media
Consortium for School Networking
Discovery Education
Gaggle.Net, Inc.
iKeepSafe.org
Intel
International Society for Technology in Education
Learning Disabilities Association of America
Learning Forward
National Association of Elementary School Principals

National Association of Secondary School Principals
National Association of State Directors of Special Education
National Education Association
National PTA
National Rural Education Advocacy Coalition
National Rural Education Association
National Writing Project
New Leaders
PASCO Scientific
Project Tomorrow
Questar Assessments Inc.
SMART Technologies Inc.
Software & Information Industry Association
State Educational Technology Directors Association

Alabama

Alabama Educational Technology Association

Arizona

Arizona School Administrators
Arizona Technology Education Association, AzTEA

California

CUE

Colorado

Colorado ASBO
Colorado Association of School Executives

Florida

Florida Society for Technology in Education

Hawaii

The Hawaii Society for Technology in Education

Idaho

Northwest Council for Computer Education

Illinois

Illinois Computing Educators

Illinois Principals Association

Indiana

Indiana Association of Public School Superintendents

Indiana Association of School Principals

Iowa

Iowa Technology and Education Connection

Kansas

Kansas Association of Secondary School Principals

Kentucky

Kentucky Society for Technology in Education

Louisiana

Louisiana Association of Computer Using Educators

Maine

The Association of Computer Technology Education in Maine

Massachusetts

Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents

Massachusetts Secondary School Administrator Association

Massachusetts Computer Using Educators

Michigan

Michigan Association for Computer Users in Learning

Minnesota

Information and Technology Educators of Minnesota
TIES
Minnesota Association of School Administrators

Mississippi

Mississippi Association of School Administrators

Missouri

EducationPlus ISTE Affiliate Midwest Education Technology Community
Missouri Association of Secondary School Principals

Montana

Northwest Council for Computer Education

New Hampshire

New Hampshire School Administrators Association
New Hampshire Society for Technology in Education

New Jersey

New Jersey Association for Educational Technology
New Jersey Association of School Librarians
New Jersey Educational Computing Cooperative

New York

New York State Association for Computers and Technologies in
Education

North Carolina

North Carolina Principals & Assistant Principals Association

North Dakota

North Dakota Association of Technology Leaders

Ohio

Ohio Association of Secondary School Administrators

Oklahoma

Oklahoma Association of Secondary School Principals
Oklahoma Technology Association

Oregon

Northwest Council for Computer Education

Rhode Island

Rhode Island Association of School Principals

Tennessee

Tennessee Educational Technology Association
Tennessee Organization of School Superintendents

Texas

Texas Computer Education Association

Virginia

Virginia Society for Technology in Education

Wisconsin

Wisconsin Educational Media and Technology Association

Washington

Northwest Council for Computer Education
Association of Washington School Principals