

April 28, 2010

The Honorable David Obey, Chair
Labor-HHS-Ed Appropriations Subcommittee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Todd Tiahrt, Ranking Member
Labor-HHS-Ed Appropriations Subcommittee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Obey and Ranking Member Tiahrt:

RE: FY2011 Education Budget for the Enhancing Education Through Technology Program

The undersigned organizations – representing educators, state and local education leaders and public officials, and the high-tech industry – urge you to fund the Enhancing Education Through Technology (EETT) program (ESEA Title II, Part D) at a minimum of \$500 million in the Fiscal Year 2011 Labor-HHS-Education appropriations.

We know that providing all children with a high-quality education that will enable them to succeed in a global economy predicated on knowledge and innovation is both a moral imperative and critical to America's economic future. Educational technologies are mission critical to this purpose. Congress included EETT as a core provision of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) to ensure a sustained, systematic, and coordinated investment in educational technology leadership needed to drive education innovation and continuous improvement. The program's primary goal is to improve student academic achievement through the effective integration of technology in curriculum and instruction, and to ensure every student is technologically literate by the end of eighth grade.

Targeting investment in technology-based innovation through EETT is foundational to achieving the nation's education reform goals. EETT formula grants are a critical vehicle for both enhancing state and local leadership capacity toward next generation education reform, as well as for coordinating disparate school improvement program investments that leverage educational technologies. EETT state-administered competitive grants are critical to further building out the research and evaluation framework needed to help transform education, at scale, into an evidence-based system of continuous improvement. Additionally, EETT plays an integral role in supporting science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education initiatives critical to America's competitiveness.

Technology plays a critical if not indispensable role in accomplishing the nation's educational goals and, more specifically, meeting the objectives of ARRA's "four assurances" including through:

- **Achieving equity in teacher distribution and quality:** Online learning can deliver high quality instruction to students isolated by geography or underserved. Online professional development and learning communities enable educators to improve their knowledge, skills and effectiveness.
- **Establishing longitudinal data systems:** Data systems are comprised of technologies such as software applications and data storage servers. Local and state data systems enable the use of real-time student data (including formative assessment) to improve instruction, decision making and accountability.
- **Enhancing the quality of academic assessments and improve State academic standards:** Computer-based and online assessment provide real-time data, adapt to individual student responses, enable alternative test-items for special populations, and are necessary for robust assessment of the knowledge/skills required for success in the changing global economy.
- **Supporting struggling schools:** Technology is the engine for a continuous improvement model, enabling personalized learning through real-time assessment, adaptive software, virtual learning opportunities, online professional development, and benchmarking of performance data.

We greatly appreciate your recognition of the program's importance to education reform by including \$650 million for EETT in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). However, after FY10 appropriations of only \$100 million following 60% EETT cuts from its FY02-FY04 levels to \$269 million in FY06-FY09, the progress gained through ARRA funding and other national, state and local leadership in innovation through technology is at-risk of being lost. We cannot afford to lose education reform momentum, and urge you to fund EETT at a minimum of \$500 million in FY11.

For additional information, our coalition co-chairs are Hilary Goldmann of the International Society for Technology in Education (202-861-7777; hgoldmann@iste.org) and Mark Schneiderman of the Software & Information Industry Association (202-789-4444; marks@siia.net).

Sincerely,

Adobe
Apple Inc.
American Association of School Administrators
American Association of School Librarians
American Association of University Women
American Library Association
ASCD
Association of Educational Service Agencies
Association of School Business Officials
International
Blackboard Inc.
Common Sense Media
Consortium for School Networking
Council for Exceptional Children
Council of Administrators of Special Education
Council of Chief State School Officers
Dell
Education Development Center
Discovery Communications
Federation of American Scientists
Hope Street Group
Instructional Technology Council
Intel
International Association for K-12 Online Learning
International Society for Technology in Education
Knowledge Alliance

Learning Disabilities Association of America
National Alliance of Black School Educators
National Association of Elementary School Principals
National Association of Federally Impacted Schools
National Association of Secondary School Principals
National Association of State Boards of Education
National Association of State Directors of Special Education
National Commission on Teaching and America's Future
National Council for the Social Studies
National Council of Teachers of English
National Council of Teachers of Mathematics
National Education Association
National School Boards Association
National Rural Education Advocacy Coalition
National Science Teachers Association
Oracle
PBS
Pearson
SAS
Scholastic
Software & Information Industry Association
State Educational Technology Directors Association

Alaska Society for Technology in Education
Arizona Technology in Education Alliance
Capitol Region Society for Technology in Education
Computer-Using Educators, Inc. (California and Nevada)
Illinois Computing Educators
Iowa Technology Education Connection
Kansas City Metropolitan Educational Technology
Louisiana Association of Computer Using Educators
Louisiana Chief Technology Officers Council
Maryland Society for Educational Technology
Michigan Association for Computer Users in Learning
Mississippi Educational Computing Association
New Mexico CIOs
New Mexico Society for Technology in Education
New York State Association for Computers and Technologies in Education
Technology in Education Colorado
Texas Computer Education Association
Texas K-12 CTO Council
Utah Coalition for Educational Technology
Virginia Society for Technology in Education
Wisconsin Educational Media and Technology Association