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Contacts:
CoSN: Jennifer Cummings, 202-822-9491, jcummings@cosn.org
ISTE: Marlene Nesary, 541-302-3789, mnesary@iste.org
SETDA: Sara Hall, 410-279-3368, shall@setda.org
SIIA: Laura Greenback, 202-789-4461, lgreenback@siia.net

Education Community Hails Senate Committee's Inclusion of ATTAIN Act in ESEA Reauthorization Bill

Voice Vote Recognizes Mission Critical Role of Digital Learning to Ensure Students are College and Career Ready

Washington, DC – Today, the nation's leading educational technology advocates applauded the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee for including the Achievement Through Technology and Innovation (ATTAIN) Act in legislation to reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), favorably reported out last night. The associations – Consortium for School Networking (CoSN), International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE), Software & Information Industry Association (SIIA) and State Educational Technology Directors Association (SETDA) – also applauded Senator Jeff Bingaman for his leadership in offering the ATTAIN Act amendment. The groups released the following statement:

"We thank Senators Bingaman, Murray, Murkowski, Harkin and others for championing the Achievement Through Technology and Innovation Act, and ensuring its inclusion in the Committee-passed Senate ESEA reauthorization.

"The ATTAIN program will help the nation's education system further shift to the digital age, building the capacity of educators and administrators to adopt innovative, technology-enabled practices. This federal leadership for technology and digital learning will enhance in our schools the effective use of data, differentiated instruction, personalized learning, access to online learning, and the availability of more engaging and authentic uses of digital curriculum and assessment.

"The use of technology by our students and in our classrooms is inextricably linked to the future of American innovation, sustained technological leadership and U.S. competitiveness in the 21st century. We call on all Members of Congress to support passage of the ATTAIN Act into law, to provide for its funding, and to infuse technology throughout ESEA programs to meet local needs."

The ATTAIN Act was also supported by the following organizations: Adobe Systems, Inc., Alliance for Excellent Education, American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education, American Association of School Administrators, American Association of

University Women, Apple, Inc., ASCD, Association of Educational Service Agencies, Association of School Business Officials, Blackboard Inc., Common Sense Media, Discovery Communications, Education TURNKEY Systems, Inc., Intel, Knowledge Alliance, KnowledgeWorks, Learning Disabilities Association of America, NASSP, National Association of Elementary School Principals, National Association of Federally Impacted Schools, 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 of Teachers of English, National Education Association, National Rural Education Advocacy Coalition, National Rural Education Association, National School Board Association, North Carolina STEM Community Collaborative, Pearson Education, Project Tomorrow, SMART Technologies, Sunburst and TechNet.

The ATTAIN Act would:

- Update classrooms with appropriate technology and ensure that educators receive continuous and comprehensive technology professional development;
- Foster the expansion of online and blended learning by encouraging states to remove legal and regulatory barriers, including seat time requirements and arbitrary caps on online course enrollments;
- Support district capacity to implement online common core assessments in 2014 by prioritizing funding for enhanced infrastructure, training and leadership;
- Promote technology initiatives that lead to personalized, rigorous and relevant learning;
- Increase education productivity and reduce costs through the use of technology; and
- Better prepare students to be technology literate and college and career ready so they can succeed in a competitive 21st century.

About CoSN, ISTE, SETDA, SIIA:

Consortium for School Networking (CoSN) is the country's premier voice in education technology leadership, serving K-12 technology leaders who through their strategic use of technology, improve teaching and learning. For further information, visit www.cosn.org.

International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE ®) The International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE ®) is the premier membership association for educators and education leaders engaged in advancing excellence in learning and teaching through the innovative and effective use of technology in PK-12 and teacher education. Home to ISTE's annual conference and exposition and the widely-adopted NETS, ISTE represents more than 100,000 professionals worldwide. http://www.iste.org.

State Educational Technology Directors Association (SETDA) is the national member association that represents the interests of the educational technology leadership of state and territorial education agencies in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and the Bureau of Indian Affairs. SETDA members work collectively and in public-private partnerships to ensure that meaningful technology innovations with broad potential for systemic improvements and cost-savings in teaching, learning and leadership are brought to scale. www.setda.org.

Software & Information Industry Association (SIIA) is the principal trade association for the software and digital content industries. SIIA provides global services in government relations, business development, corporate education and intellectual property protection to 500 leading software and information companies. SIIA and our member companies have long collaborated with educators, policymakers and other stakeholders to improve education through the use of innovative learning technologies. For further information, visit www.siia.net/education.

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