

NCLB Requirements & America's Competitiveness at Risk With President Bush's Elimination of Technology Funding for Schools

Programs that have been proven effective to close the achievement gap, make schools more accountable, and increase math & science scores are on the chopping block across the nation due to the cuts.

Arlington, VA, February 28, 2006 - The State Educational Technology Directors Association (SETDA) calls on Congressional Leaders to fully restore the Administration's proposed elimination of NCLB's Title II, Part D – Enhancing Education Through Technology (EETT) Program. State agencies and schools will eliminate proven programs that promote the effective use of technology to utilize the data systems that measure AYP, increase student achievement in math, science and language arts with supplemental and online courseware, and provide access to quality content for rural students & teachers.

The Administration's proposed elimination of the EETT program will have a devastating affect nationwide on the ability of schools to meet the requirements of NCLB and to prepare America's students to be competitive. Technology use cannot be assumed as our nation focuses its complete attention on our goal of readying students to be competitive in the global marketplace of the future. Instead, technology needs to be provided for every American student in a well-planned, systematic manner with leadership in the states and districts.

During SETDA's "**Technology Impact in Education Month**," more than 2,000 participating students and teachers from across the U.S. cited examples and shared anecdotes of how technology is critical at school, work, and home. It was clear that parents, students and teachers understand the essential need for the effective use of technology in their classrooms as well as in their daily lives. The resounding message was that schools will see the productivity gains modeled in the business community if there is a sufficient technology infrastructure in place to address each child's learning needs. Carol Kiesman of Southside School in Houlton, Maine stated, "This exercise so intrigued my students that they volunteered to write to our school district administrators to tell them about the project and how dependent they are on technology at this day in time."

Upon hearing of the President's proposed elimination of EETT, G. Thomas Houlihan, Executive Director of the Council of Chief State School Officers, stated: "Education, like other vital components of the information economy, has tapped into the power of technology to improve educational outcomes. Used for student empowerment, teacher professional development, and online assessment, expanding the use of technology in education is a critical foundation in keeping America competitive."

"We urge Congress to listen to the teachers, parents and students who realize the important role technology plays in developing skills for 21st century workers," said Melinda George, Executive Director of SETDA. "It is hypocritical for President Bush to propose eliminating the only federal funding dedicated to promoting the effective and systemic use of technology in the classroom while at the same time setting goals for America's global competitiveness."

About EETT

Authorized as Title II-D of the NCLB, EETT enables schools to address core teaching and learning needs through technology tools, by: allowing access to courses online otherwise not available to rural and urban students; equipping teachers to take advantage of new and emerging technology tools; providing students with the tools to compete in a highly competitive global employment market; allowing continual assessment of student progress through computer-based testing; and disaggregating and reporting of student adequate yearly progress (AYP) data.

About SETDA

The State Educational Technology Directors Association (SETDA) is the principal association for state directors of technology and their staff members. For more information about SETDA and/or its events, visit <http://www.setda.org>. For more information on Technology Impact in Education Month go to www.edtechimpact.com.