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**SIIA Vows to Work to Restore Federal Education Technology Funding**

*Program Elimination Will Harm Efforts to Achieve the Goals of the No Child Left Behind Act*

Washington, D.C. – February 7, 2005 – The Software & Information Industry Association (SIIA) today vowed to work with Congress and the Administration to restore the Enhancing Education Through Technology (EETT) program, which was eliminated from the President's FY2006 Department of Education budget.

News of EETT's elimination comes exactly one month after the U.S. Department of Education released the National Education Technology Plan. This collaborative study concluded that investment in classroom technologies and eLearning is necessary to engage today's internet savvy pupils, individualize instruction and extend learning opportunities for economically disadvantaged students.

"Technology has transformed our workplaces and children's daily lives, yet classrooms don't reflect this fundamental change," said Ken Wasch, President of SIIA. "The Administration understands the need to modernize as indicated by their recent initiative to digitize medical information and processes. We owe the same commitment to our public schools."

The EETT program is the only federal Department of Education initiative that provides dedicated funding for technology needs to all of the nation's K-12 schools and is the only funding source for about half of the states. The program gives schools broad discretion to spend funds on a wide range of technology tools, including computer-based assessment, distance learning, parental communications, and teacher training and other eLearning resources. EETT is designed to deliver funds to communities with the highest poverty rates, so the cut will most adversely impact low-income, rural and urban students who rely on their school for Internet access and exposure to technology.

"We are deeply concerned that this cut would greatly limit school capacity to implement learning technologies necessary to diagnose student academic needs and provide engaging instructional programs," said Mark Schneiderman, SIIA's Director of Education Policy. "Few disagree that education technology is necessary to modernize our schools and reach the goals set by the No Child Left Behind Act. In fact, the Administration sought \$692 million for the program just last year."

SIIA has long been a leader in the area of education technology and has worked with educators and policymakers to improve e-learning opportunities. SIIA urges the Administration to reconsider

this budget proposal and restore funding for the Enhancing Education Through Technology program.

### **About SIIA**

The Software & Information Industry Association is the principal trade association for the software and digital content industry. SIIA provides global services in government relations, business development, corporate education, and intellectual property protection to more than 750 leading software and information companies. For further information, visit <http://www.sii.net>

### **About SIIA Education Division**

SIIA's Education Division participates, shapes and supports the education industry by providing leadership, advocacy and critical marketing information to promote the success of education technology and content providers. Our companies include market leaders as well as hundreds of small and medium-sized companies that are driving innovation in this competitive environment. With the leadership of the Education Division Board, this division considers issues and projects that are of special interest to members in the education technology market.

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