



May 23, 2011

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the Consortium of School Networking (CoSN), the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE), the Software & Information Industry Association (SIIA) and the State Educational Technology Directors Association (SETDA), we write to oppose the deauthorization of the Enhancing Education Through Technology (EETT) program in the Setting New Priorities in Education Spending Act (H.R. 1891). Digital learning and educational technologies are vital to modernizing our educational system and ensuring that our nation's students can globally compete. EETT provides the only significant federal K-12 (ESEA/NCLB) authorization for these uses of funds and its elimination would significantly limit state and local flexibility in addressing these needs and undermine efforts to prepare our students for the 21st Century economy.

Deauthorizing EETT would constrain the ability of states and districts to make choices on how best to spend their federal education dollars, thereby undermining the flexibility that many states and districts seek. Without an authorized federal education technology program, states and districts will be unable to transfer other federal education dollars towards technology purchases that benefit all students. Instead, they will be forced to resort to using other federal education titles that, by their statutory language, limit which students can gain access to technology purchased through those titles.

EETT has played a vital role in developing the student technology skills necessary to compete in today's global marketplace, where knowledge is growing infinitely, jobs are ever-evolving, and success requires the ability to use today's digital learning and communication tools. Additionally, EETT supports customized student-centered digital and online learning that more efficiently addresses the unique needs of each student. EETT also improves educational productivity and accountability through its support of data systems, online learning and professional development, and the transformation of an outdated paper-pencil-brick system to one powered by technology, data and virtual resources.

Further, we believe that deauthorizing EETT would undermine the program's strong record of enhancing teaching and learning, by improving test scores, increasing student access to more classes, and offering new opportunities for professional development. For example, EETT supported technology integration specialists and coaches in Montana have provided on-site, in-service training on classroom technology use that has improved teacher skills and student engagement. Dozens of similar stories demonstrating EETT's effectiveness can be found in the National Coalition for Technology in Education and Training's (NCTET) recent report, Profiles in Innovation: How the Enhancing Education Through Technology Program is Improving Teaching and Learning in America's Schools (www.nctet.org) and the State Educational

Technology Directors Association's National Trends Report (www.setda.org). Copies of both reports are attached.

CoSN, ISTE, SIIA and SETDA oppose the deauthorization of EETT in the Setting New Priorities in Education Spending Act because it would seriously undercut our nation's ability to modernize schools and prepare a competitive workforce. We urge you to oppose the proposed elimination of EETT in HR 1891.

Sincerely,

Consortium for School Networking
International Society for Technology in Education
Software & Information Industry Association
State Educational Technology Directors Association