

# A Resolution for Education Success

## Technology = Competitiveness

### Vote to Increase Funding for NCLB Title II-D Enhancing Education Through Technology (EETT)

*Whereas technology is critical in our schools to both meet the goals of the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) – raising student achievement and ensuring high quality teaching – and ensure students are prepared to compete in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.*

*Whereas America can not create a competitive workforce if its schools don't have access to engaging curriculum and rigorous courses, technology-proficient educators, and updated technology infrastructure and efficient administrative structures.*

*Whereas e-learning is necessary to individualize instruction and engage today's digital native students who are too often forced into a curriculum and instruction that no longer meets their learning needs and expectations.*

*Whereas technology and e-learning in our schools is necessary to meet our STEM education needs and provide students with the 21<sup>st</sup> century skills that are prerequisites for success today, including technology literacy, communication, problem solving, and the ability for self-directed learning.*

*Whereas a 2003 US Department of Commerce report credits US industry's massive investments in information technology between 1989-2001 with "producing positive and probably lasting changes in the nation's economic potential," but finds U.S. education last in intensity of IT of 55 industry sectors.*

*Whereas a robust and targeted federal investment is needed to address these needs and goals, and Congress authorized the Enhancing Education Through Technology (EETT) grant program as Title II-D of the NCLB to provide school districts, particularly those serving low income students, with these resources.*

*Resolved by the nation's education leaders as signed below --  
That Congress restore funding for the EETT program to a minimum of \$496 million, its FY 05 funding level, to meet the nation's educational needs and help ensure our competitiveness.*

**Signed:**

**Name / Title / Organization (School, District, State and/or Agency)**

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### **About NCLB II-D, Enhancing Education Through Technology (EETT)**

EETT enables schools to address core teaching and learning needs through technology. Funds are distributed by Title I poverty-weighted formula to states, which in turn distribute funds to school districts with 50% allocated by poverty-weighted formula and 50% by competition. EETT gives schools broad discretion to use program resources on a number of technology acquisition, enrichment and integration purposes aimed at improving student achievement and student technology access, with *at least 25%* required for teacher professional development.

Surveys show that districts target EETT funding for improving teacher quality, improving student achievement in reading and math, engaging in data driven decision making, and launching online assessment programs. Uses include the following:

- access to courses online often otherwise not available, especially for rural and urban students,
- professional development, including online, to ensure that teachers are highly qualified and can effectively take advantage of new and emerging technology tools,
- providing students with skills and tools to compete in a highly competitive, technology-driven, global employment market,
- implementation of educational software and electronic learning resources to engage digital-native students in their curriculum and address their learning needs,
- technology-based strategies to improve parental involvement, including through improved communication with teachers and access to student assignments and grades,
- computer-assisted and online testing that allow for more immediate and meaningful assessment of student skills to help teachers provide more individualized instruction, and
- disaggregation and reporting of student adequate yearly progress (AYP) and other data to enable accountability and data-driven decision making.

Authorized in NCLB at \$1 billion per year, EETT was funded at about \$690 million for its first three years in Fiscal Years 2002-2004, but was reduced to \$496 million in FY2005 and to \$272 million in FY2006. Districts rely on EETT funds as a core means for providing a competitive 21<sup>st</sup> Century learning environment. In 14 states (AZ, CA, DE, IL, LA, MD, MI, MN, MO, NH, OK, VT, WA, and WI), EETT is the sole source of education technology funding for local schools, and in the majority of states it is the primary source. In its FY07 Budget, the Bush Administration proposes to eliminate all funding for the EETT program – the second year in a row that it has sought to eliminate EETT entirely. These cuts have already seriously eroded state and district efforts to both ensure our competitiveness and effectively implement NCLB; a complete elimination of EETT would be devastating.