



## OFFICIAL POLICY

### EDUCATION TECHNOLOGY

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Twenty First Century globalization, along with advances in technology, compel parents, educators, and policymakers to ensure that every child is equipped with the education necessary to compete in today's emerging global economy. Advances include new and exciting means for achieving these education goals.

Advances in technology expand teaching potential and efficiency that enable increased ability to customize and monitor each child's educational experience. These enhancements diminish the significance of geographic distance and makes possible access to students, records, assessments, remediation, and an unprecedented scope of information--- 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. While education is primarily and properly a state responsibility, the federal government can play an important supporting role for applying technology to: increase personalized instruction; decrease student boredom and teacher burnout; stimulate discovery, innovation, and creativity; achieve NCLB requirements related to tutorial services, supplemental services, provision of highly qualified teachers, and meeting the reporting requirements; and to provide education equity for every student, regardless of location or economic status.

The federal Enhancing Education through Technology (EETT or "E2T2") block-grant program is the primary source of federal funding for school technology. In FY-06, EETT received \$275 million, down from \$496 million in FY-05. The administration has asked Congress to eliminate the program and EETT funding in each of the last three budget cycles, including the current budget proposal for FY-08.

The National Conference of State Legislatures believes that this an example of a critical program necessary to ensure that every child is equipped with the creative thinking, problem solving, and analytical skills needed to compete in today's global market place. Funding for EETT should be restored and enhanced because the program represents a national state-based educational partnership that can serve as a model of innovation and excellence.

*Expires August 2009*