

ASSEMBLY, No. 1864

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED MAY 2, 1996

By Assemblymen WOLFE, DORIA and Rocco

1 AN ACT establishing an Educational Technology Teacher Training
2 Program in the Department of Education, and supplementing
3 chapter 6 of Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes and making an
4 appropriation.

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6 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
7 of New Jersey:

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9 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Educational
10 Technology Teacher Training Act."

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12 2. The Legislature finds and declares that:

13 a. In order for all of New Jersey's students to acquire the critical
14 thinking and problem solving skills necessary to become productive
15 citizens in the next century, they will require access to the
16 opportunities provided by modern technology;

17 b. It is imperative that teachers understand the potential of
18 technology within the classroom to support curriculum goals and that
19 they become proficient and sophisticated users of those technologies
20 critical to educating New Jersey's students;

21 c. Many of this State's teachers ended their training before
22 technology was pervasive within teacher education programs and as
23 a result the most frequently mentioned issue in educational technology
24 has been the need for staff training;

25 d. The Education Technology Task Force, formed by the
26 Commission on Business Efficiency of the Public Schools to assist the
27 Legislature and Executive branch in formulating a statewide
28 educational technology policy, noted in its March, 1996 report,
29 Technology and New Jersey's Schools in the 21st Century, that some
30 school districts have exemplary technology programs and also have
31 developed exemplary staff training programs;

32 e. The task force also recommended that in order to provide access
33 to technology to teachers in the most efficient manner possible, the
34 State should build upon this expertise by providing grants to school
35 districts with proven histories of success in applying technology to
36 education so that these school districts may share that knowledge

1 with other districts through training programs specifically developed
2 for that purpose; and

3 f. The New Jersey Department of Education has repeatedly
4 stressed the importance of technology training for educational
5 personnel and in fact in its April, 1993 report, Educational
6 Technology in New Jersey: A Plan for Action, emphasized the critical
7 need for strategies that will provide and support effective staff
8 development models in this regard.

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10 3. The Commissioner of Education shall develop and administer an
11 Educational Technology Teacher Training Program. The purpose of
12 the program shall be to provide grants to local school districts which
13 have successfully integrated technology within their own educational
14 programs to develop and offer educational technology training
15 programs to the teachers and staff of other school districts. The
16 grants shall be allocated to school districts on a competitive basis and
17 the commissioner may, if he deems appropriate, award grants to other
18 appropriate applicants which he feels have the potential to develop and
19 offer high quality educational technology training programs to school
20 staff.

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22 4. a. There is established within the Department of Education a
23 fund to be known as the "Educational Technology Teacher Training
24 Fund," hereinafter referred to as the "fund." The fund shall be used to
25 provide grants to school districts or other applicants as approved by
26 the commissioner to develop and administer educational technology
27 training programs for school district staff. The grants shall be
28 provided for a three- year period after which the technology training
29 program shall be supported on a fee-for-service basis, through private
30 sector-school district partnership funding, or both. During the initial
31 three-year period, the grant funding shall be supplemented on a fee-
32 for-service basis to offset costs which may exceed the grant amount.

33 b. The fund shall annually be credited with money appropriated by
34 the Legislature, any moneys received from corporate donors or other
35 private sector support, and any federal funds which may become
36 available for teacher technology training.

37 c. Grants provided from the fund shall be used for the development
38 of accessible training sites; costs associated with educational
39 technology training personnel; the acquisition of equipment necessary
40 for technological training including hardware and software;
41 subscription fees for telecommunications and data base services; and
42 any other purpose approved by the commissioner.

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44 5. a. Within 90 days of the effective date of this act, the
45 commissioner shall forward a request for proposals for the
46 establishment of educational technology teacher training programs to

1 local school districts and other appropriate applicants. A local school
2 district or other applicant which wants to participate in the program
3 shall submit a proposal to the commissioner which outlines the
4 district's or applicant's plan to offer educational technology training to
5 teachers and other school staff. The proposal shall include information
6 which outlines the manner in which the technology training program
7 shall become self-supporting at the end of the three-year grant period
8 through a fee-for-service arrangement, private sector support, or some
9 other mechanism as developed by the grant recipient. The proposal
10 shall also include any other information which the commissioner may
11 require.

12 b. The commissioner shall select grant recipients based on the
13 quality of the proposed educational technology teacher training
14 program. In selecting grant recipients, the commissioner shall
15 consider the leadership and experience of the grant applicant in the
16 effective use of educational technology within the classroom; the
17 location of the proposed training site and the number of potential
18 school staff trainees which have convenient access to the site; and the
19 potential for the training program to operate independently of grant
20 funds at the end of the three-year period.

21 c. The commissioner shall award grants to support 18 teacher
22 training sites in the amount of \$125,000 per site. The commissioner
23 shall provide for a phase-in of training sites over the three-year period
24 with four sites established in the first year of the program, seven sites
25 in the second year, and seven sites in the third year. In establishing a
26 schedule for the phase-in of training sites, the commissioner shall
27 ensure that there is an equitable distribution of sites in terms of their
28 geographic location.

29 d. Each training site shall include:

- 30 (1) program offerings providing basic computer skills;
- 31 (2) program offerings related to word processing, data sheets and
32 design;
- 33 (3) a minimum of three educational multimedia program offerings;
- 34 (4) a minimum of two telecommunications program offerings; and
- 35 (5) program offerings which provide instruction on implementing
36 teaching strategies that support the integration of technology in the
37 classroom.

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39 6. The commissioner shall annually evaluate the effectiveness of
40 the teacher training programs being operated by grant recipients.
41 Three years following the effective date of this act, the commissioner
42 shall report to the Governor and the Legislature on the progress of the
43 Educational Technology Teacher Training Program.

1 participate in the program shall submit a proposal to the commissioner
2 which outlines the district's or applicant's plan to offer educational
3 technology training to teachers and other school staff. The proposal
4 shall include information which outlines the manner in which the
5 technology training program shall become self-supporting at the end
6 of a three-year grant period through a fee-for-service arrangement,
7 private sector support, or some other mechanism as developed by the
8 grant recipient.

9 The technology training program will provide grants on a
10 competitive basis to local school districts which have successfully
11 integrated technology within their own educational programs, or other
12 appropriate applicants, to develop and offer educational technology
13 training programs to the teachers and staff of other school districts.
14 The commissioner shall select grant recipients based on the quality of
15 the proposed educational technology teacher training program
16 including: the leadership and experience of the grant applicant in the
17 effective use of educational technology within the classroom; the
18 location of the proposed training site and the number of potential
19 school staff trainees which have convenient access to the site; and the
20 potential for the training program to operate independently of grant
21 funds at the end of the three-year period.

22 The commissioner is to award grants to support 18 teacher training
23 sites in the amount of \$125,000 per site. There is to be a phase-in of
24 sites over the three-year period with four sites established in the first
25 year, seven in the second, and seven in the third. In establishing the
26 phase-in schedule, the commissioner is to ensure that there is an
27 equitable distribution of sites in terms of geographic location.

28 Each training site shall include instruction on basic computer skills,
29 program offerings related to word processing, data sheets and design.
30 In addition, the training sites shall include educational multimedia
31 program offerings, telecommunications program offerings, and
32 program offerings which provide instruction on implementing teaching
33 strategies that support the integration of technology in the classroom.

34 This bill also establishes the Educational Technology Teacher
35 Training Fund. This fund shall be used to provide the grants to school
36 districts or other applicants as approved by the commissioner to
37 develop and administer educational technology training programs for
38 school district staff. The grants shall be provided for a three-year
39 period after which the technology training program shall be supported
40 on a fee-for-service basis, through private sector-school district
41 partnership funding, or both. During the initial three-year period, the
42 grant funding shall be supplemented on a fee-for-service basis to
43 offset costs which may exceed the grant amount.

44 The commissioner is to annually evaluate the effectiveness of the
45 teacher training programs being operated by grant recipients. Three
46 years following the bill's effective date, the commissioner is to report

1 to the Governor and the Legislature on the progress of the program.

2 The bill provides a \$500,000 appropriation to the Department of
3 Education to effectuate the purposes of the bill.

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8 Establishes the "Educational Technology Teacher Training Program";
9 appropriates \$500,000.