

[Second Reprint]
ASSEMBLY, No. 1864

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED MAY 2, 1996

By Assemblymen WOLFE, DORIA, Rocco and Blee

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

5

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

8

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

11

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;

EXPLANATION - Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹ Assembly AED committee amendments adopted June 17, 1996.

² Assembly AAP committee amendments adopted October 7, 1996.

1 e. The task force also recommended that in order to provide access
2 to technology to teachers in the most efficient manner possible, the
3 State should build upon this expertise by providing grants to school
4 districts with proven histories of success in applying technology to
5 education so that these school districts may share that knowledge with
6 other districts through training programs specifically developed for
7 that purpose; and

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

14
15 3. The Commissioner of Education shall develop and administer an
16 Educational Technology Teacher Training Program. The purpose of
17 the program shall be to provide grants to local school districts which
18 have successfully integrated technology within their own educational
19 programs to develop and offer educational technology training
20 programs to the teachers and staff of other school districts ²and to the
21 teachers and staff of non-public schools². The grants shall be allocated
22 to school districts on a competitive basis and the commissioner may,
23 if he deems appropriate, award grants to other appropriate applicants
24 which he feels have the potential to develop and offer high quality
25 educational technology training programs to school staff ², including
26 the staff of non-public schools².

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

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

43 c. Grants provided from the fund shall be used for the development
44 of accessible training sites; costs associated with educational
45 technology training personnel; the acquisition of equipment necessary
46 for technological training including hardware and software;

1 subscription fees for telecommunications and data base services; and
2 any other purpose approved by the commissioner.

3
4 5. a. Within 90 days of the effective date of this act, the
5 commissioner shall forward a request for proposals for the
6 establishment of educational technology teacher training programs to
7 local school districts and other appropriate applicants. A local school
8 district or other applicant which wants to participate in the program
9 shall submit a proposal to the commissioner which outlines the
10 district's or applicant's plan to offer educational technology training to
11 teachers and other school staff. The proposal shall include information
12 which outlines the manner in which the technology training program
13 shall become self-supporting at the end of the three-year grant period
14 through a fee-for-service arrangement, private sector support, or some
15 other mechanism as developed by the grant recipient. The proposal
16 shall also include any other information which the commissioner may
17 require.

18 b. The commissioner shall select grant recipients based on the
19 quality of the proposed educational technology teacher training
20 program. In selecting grant recipients, the commissioner shall
21 consider the leadership and experience of the grant applicant in the
22 effective use of educational technology within the classroom; the
23 location of the proposed training site ¹[and the number of potential
24 school staff trainees which have convenient access to the site]¹; and
25 the potential for the training program to operate independently of
26 grant funds at the end of the three-year period.

27 c. The commissioner shall award grants to support ¹[18] at least
28 21¹ teacher training sites in the amount of ¹[\$125,000] \$200,000¹ per
29 site. The commissioner shall provide for a phase-in of training sites
30 over the three-year period with ¹[four]at least seven¹ sites established
31 in the first year of the program, seven sites in the second year, and
32 seven sites in the third year. In establishing a schedule for the phase-in
33 of training sites, the commissioner shall ensure that there is an
34 equitable distribution of sites in terms of their geographic location
35 ¹providing at a minimum for the establishment of one training site per
36 county¹.

37 d. Each training site shall include:

38 (1) program offerings providing basic ¹[computer] technology¹
39 skills;

40 (2) program offerings related to word processing, data ¹[sheets]
41 bases, spreadsheets,¹ and design;

42 (3) a minimum of three educational multimedia program offerings;

43 (4) a minimum of two telecommunications program offerings; and

44 (5) program offerings which provide instruction on implementing
45 teaching strategies that support the integration of technology in the
46 classroom.

1 6. The commissioner shall annually evaluate the effectiveness of
2 the teacher training programs being operated by grant recipients.
3 Three years following the effective date of this act, the commissioner
4 shall report to the Governor and the Legislature on the progress of the
5 Educational Technology Teacher Training Program.

6

7 7. The State Board of Education shall adopt, pursuant to the
8 "Administrative Procedure Act," PL. 1968, c. 410 (C. 52:14B-1 et
9 seq.), the rules and regulations necessary to carry out the provisions
10 of this act.

11

12 ¹[8. There is appropriated from the General Fund the sum of
13 \$500,000 to the Department of Education to effectuate the purposes
14 of this act.]¹

15

16 ¹[9.] §.¹ This act shall take effect immediately.

17

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19

20

21 Establishes the "Educational Technology Teacher Training Program."