

Title 18A.  
Chapter 6. §§1-7  
Article 12 (New)  
Educational  
Technology  
Teacher Training  
Program  
C.18A:6-103  
To 18A:6-109

P.L. 1996, CHAPTER 129, *approved November 20, 1996*  
Senate No. 1189 (*Second Reprint*)

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.

4

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

7

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

10

11 2. The Legislature finds and declares that:

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

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

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

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

<sup>1</sup> Senate SED committee amendments adopted June 20, 1996.

<sup>2</sup> Senate SBA committee amendments adopted October 28, 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 <sup>2</sup>and to the  
21 teachers and staff of non-public schools<sup>2</sup>. 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 <sup>2</sup>, including  
26 the staff of non-public schools<sup>2</sup>.

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 <sup>1</sup>[and the number of potential  
24 school staff trainees which have convenient access to the site]<sup>1</sup>; 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 <sup>1</sup>[~~22~~] at least  
28 21<sup>1</sup> teacher training sites in the amount of \$200,000 per site. <sup>1</sup>[Each  
29 site selected shall be capable of providing training to the teachers and  
30 other staff of 100 school buildings which are geographically accessible  
31 to the training site.]<sup>1</sup> The commissioner shall provide for a phase-in  
32 of training sites over the three-year period with <sup>1</sup>[~~eight~~] at least seven<sup>1</sup>  
33 sites established in the first year of the program, seven sites in the  
34 second year, and seven sites in the third year. In establishing a  
35 schedule for the phase-in of training sites, the commissioner shall  
36 ensure that there is an equitable distribution of sites in terms of their  
37 geographic location <sup>1</sup>providing at a minimum for the establishment of  
38 one training site per county.

39 d. Each training site shall include:

40 (1) program offerings providing basic technology skills;

41 (2) program offerings related to word processing, data bases,  
42 spreadsheets, and design;

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

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

45 (5) program offerings which provide instruction on implementing

1 teaching strategies that support the integration of technology in the  
2 classroom<sup>1</sup>.

3

4 6. The commissioner shall annually evaluate the effectiveness of  
5 the teacher training programs being operated by grant recipients.  
6 Three years following the effective date of this act, the commissioner  
7 shall <sup>1</sup>[submit] report<sup>1</sup> to the Governor and the Legislature <sup>1</sup>[an  
8 evaluation] on the progress<sup>1</sup> of the Educational Technology Teacher  
9 Training Program <sup>1</sup>[and its effectiveness in upgrading the technological  
10 skills of teachers and other school district staff. The evaluation shall  
11 include a recommendation on the advisability and necessity of  
12 continuing the grant program]<sup>1</sup>.

13

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

18

19 8. This act shall take effect immediately.

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24 \_\_\_\_\_  
Establishes the "Educational Technology Teacher Training Program."