

[First Reprint]
SENATE, No. 1189

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED MAY 30, 1996

By Senators DiFRANCESCO and CIESLA

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:

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

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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;

31 e. The task force also recommended that in order to provide access

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 Senate SED committee amendments adopted June 20, 1996.

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

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

13

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

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

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

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

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

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

24 c. The commissioner shall award grants to support ¹[22] at least
25 21¹ teacher training sites in the amount of \$200,000 per site. ¹[Each
26 site selected shall be capable of providing training to the teachers and
27 other staff of 100 school buildings which are geographically accessible
28 to the training site.]¹ The commissioner shall provide for a phase-in
29 of training sites over the three-year period with ¹[eight] at least seven¹
30 sites established in the first year of the program, seven sites in the
31 second year, and seven sites in the third year. In establishing a
32 schedule for the phase-in of training sites, the commissioner shall
33 ensure that there is an equitable distribution of sites in terms of their
34 geographic location ¹providing at a minimum for the establishment of
35 one training site per county.

36 d. Each training site shall include:

37 (1) program offerings providing basic technology skills;

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

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

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

42 (5) program offerings which provide instruction on implementing
43 teaching strategies that support the integration of technology in the
44 classroom¹.

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46 6. The commissioner shall annually evaluate the effectiveness of

1 the teacher training programs being operated by grant recipients.
2 Three years following the effective date of this act, the commissioner
3 shall ¹[submit] report ¹ to the Governor and the Legislature [an
4 evaluation] on the progress¹ of the Educational Technology Teacher
5 Training Program ¹[and its effectiveness in upgrading the technological
6 skills of teachers and other school district staff. The evaluation shall
7 include a recommendation on the advisability and necessity of
8 continuing the grant program]¹.

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

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15 8. This act shall take effect immediately.

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19

20 Establishes the "Educational Technology Teacher Training Program."