S T A T E O F N E W Y O R K

5686

2009-2010 Regular Sessions

I N A S S E M B L Y

February 17, 2009

Introduced by M. of A. CONTE, QUINN, RABBITT, REILICH, SALADINO -- Multi-Sponsored by -- M. of A. ALFANO, BACALLES, BARCLAY, BARRA, BURLING, BUTLER, CALHOUN, CROUCH, ERRIGO, FINCH, FITZPATRICK, JORDAN, KOLB, OAKS, O'MARA, RAIA, SAYWARD, SCOZZAFAVA, TEDISCO, THIELE, TOWNSEND -- read once and referred to the Committee on Education

AN ACT to create the "21st Century Education Act" by directing the education department to develop a pilot program that maximizes the use of technology in the classroom to meet the state's educational standards

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "21st Century Education Act".

S 2. The education department is hereby authorized and directed to create a pilot program to explore the feasibility and benefits of maximizing the use of computer technology in the classroom to assist students in meeting the state's educational standards. 1. The program shall consist of twenty schools nominated by school districts for participation in the program and selected by the department. The program shall consist of sixth grade-level students from twenty schools. Participating students and teachers shall receive computer technology and software, instruction on how to use the equipment and software to maximize the use of such equipment to reach the state's educational standards. Selected students shall continue to receive technology through the eighth grade. Such technology shall consist of laptop computers with wireless capability for each student and teacher, as well as educational software appropriate to each grade level, instructional services for use of the equipment and software; and ongoing technological and curriculum development support. Parents of participating students shall also be provided with at least one day of program orientation and optional computer and software instruction each school year.

EXPLANATION--Matter in ITALICS (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [ ] is old law to be omitted.

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2. Participating classes shall be selected from applications submitted to the department by school districts. Applications for participation shall be developed by the department and shall require applicants to submit a proposal describing: (a) how the computers and software technology will be integrated into the classroom setting; (b) how the technology will assist participants in meeting or exceeding the state's educational standards, the local school district's goals, and the students' academic, vocational, and employment goals; and (c) how local community participation from businesses and civic groups will enhance the benefits of the state's contributions to the program. Schools selected for participation shall receive the necessary grants and technology for up to a three year period; provided, however that if at anytime the department determines that the school district is not complying with the conditions of the pilot program it may withdraw the state's support for its participation in the program.

S 3. The education department is authorized and directed to conduct a study of the pilot program during its three year period. Such study shall include, but not be limited to: (1) an assessment of the extent to which technology assists the students in reaching the school district's educational goals for participants and the state's educational requirements; (2) an assessment of the ways technology helps students at different grade levels achieve personal educational or employment goals; and (3) assess whether and how further investment into wireless technology integration is appropriate for the state. Such study and recommendations shall be submitted to the legislature no later than one year following the completion of the pilot program's three year tenure.

S 4. This act shall take effect on the one hundred eightieth day after it shall have become a law and shall apply to the academic school year next succeeding the date on which it shall have become a law; provided, however, that effective immediately, the education department may promulgate any rules or regulations necessary for the timely implementation of this act on such effective date.