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

1009

2009-2010 Regular Sessions

I N  S E N A T E

January 22, 2009

Introduced by Sen. KRUGER -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Education

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to enacting the school technology planning act

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

Section 1. Short title. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "School Technology Planning Act".

S 2. Legislative findings. a. The legislature finds that:

i. Beginning with the 1997--1998 school year, schools became eligible for federally mandated telecommunications discounts. Schools must apply for these dollars and will receive discounts on a first-come first-serve basis. Typically, districts best poised to access discounts and the scores of public and private grants available for educational technology are those which are more technologically advanced. Districts which are typically less successful in accessing aid are those that need technical assistance and do little or no planning.

ii. A good percentage of districts in New York state do not have a technology plan or have a plan lacking essential components. Planning is crucial to effective use of technology integration into curriculum. District technology planning activities go a long way in helping districts plan, implement their plans, seek funds, coordinate and conduct teacher training, provide in-house technical assistance, and maintain technology systems.

b. The legislature declares its intent to ameliorate the deficiencies it has identified in subdivision a of this section through the enactment of this act in furtherance of equipping our students with the most up-to-date educational tools needed for them to be self-sufficient functioning members of society by participating in the technology that is revolutionizing that society.

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

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S 3. The education law is amended by adding a new section 755 to read as follows:

S 755. SCHOOL TECHNOLOGY PLANNING. 1. REGIONAL OR DISTRICT-WIDE TECHNOLOGY PLANNING. A. EACH SCHOOL DISTRICT, EITHER INDIVIDUALLY OR IN COMBINATION WITH ONE OR MORE OTHER DISTRICTS OR ONE OR MORE PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEMS, SHALL SUBMIT TO THE DEPARTMENT WITHIN NINETY DAYS IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS SECTION A FIVE-YEAR EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY PLAN AS DESCRIBED IN THIS SUBDIVISION.

B. THE EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY PLAN SHALL ADDRESS A DISTRICT'S OR A CONSORTIUM OF DISTRICTS' PLANS FOR IMPLEMENTING THE INTEGRATION OF EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY INTO CLASSROOM INSTRUCTION AND ACTIVITIES OVER A PERIOD OF FIVE YEARS. THE PLAN SHALL INCLUDE, BUT NOT BE LIMITED TO, THE FOLLOWING: MAJOR GOALS AND EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES FOR TECHNOLOGY INTEGRATION WITHIN THE DISTRICT OR DISTRICTS; GOALS FOR INTEGRATION OF EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY IN VARIOUS SUBJECTS/GRADE LEVELS; A LIST OF PRIORITIES AND DIRECTIONS FOR IMPLEMENTING THE PLAN; RESULTS OF DISTRICT-WIDE BUILDING AND INSTRUCTIONAL NEEDS ASSESSMENTS; BENCHMARKS FOR TIMELINES AND IMPLEMENTATION; ASSESSMENT PROCESSES FOR VARIOUS STAGES OF IMPLEMENTATION; PROVISIONS FOR ONGOING FUNDING; PLANS FOR PRE- AND IN-SERVICE STAFF DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING; PLANS FOR PROVIDING ONGOING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND MAINTENANCE.

C. THE PLANNING PROCESS SHOULD CONSIDER AND THE PLAN MAY ADDRESS HOW THE SCHOOL'S TECHNOLOGY EFFORTS CAN BE LINKED WITH OTHER COMMUNITY TECHNOLOGY NETWORKS IN PLACE OR UNDER DEVELOPMENT. SUCH OTHER NETWORKS MAY INCLUDE INFORMATION BASED LABOR EXCHANGE, EMPLOYMENT, TRAINING OR LIBRARY SERVICES, AND MAY ADDRESS THE EXTENT TO WHICH COORDINATION AND INFORMATION SHARING IS APPROPRIATE.

D. ANNUALLY THEREAFTER THE REGIONAL OR DISTRICT-WIDE EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY PLANS SHALL BE UPDATED TO REFLECT:

(I) ACTIONS TAKEN TO MEET THE GOALS REFLECTED IN THE FIVE-YEAR PLAN;

(II) CHANGES TO THE PLAN AS A RESULT OF REVISED COMPLETION TIMELINES AND/OR IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULES OR NEW OR REVISED GOALS AND/OR DIRECTIONS FOR PLAN IMPLEMENTATION;

(III) FINANCIAL ACCOUNTING OF LOCAL, STATE AND FEDERAL EXPENDITURES APPLIED IN CARRYING OUT THE PLAN AND IN SATISFYING OTHER DEPARTMENTAL REPORTING REQUIREMENTS APPLICABLE TO THE EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY; AND

(IV) ANY OTHER INFORMATION IN SATISFACTION OF OTHER DEPARTMENTAL REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.

E. INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED IN THE PLANNING PROCESS SHALL INCLUDE, AMONG OTHERS, REPRESENTATIVES DRAWN FROM TEACHERS AND OTHER SCHOOL DISTRICT PERSONNEL WHO MAY USE, MAINTAIN, INSTALL, OR MANAGE EQUIPMENT ON A REGULAR BASIS.

2. ROLE OF THE DEPARTMENT. A. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL SUPPORT THE USE OF TECHNOLOGY IN SCHOOLS BY PROVIDING TO SCHOOL DISTRICTS, UPON REQUEST, WITH PRIORITY GIVEN TO THOSE DISTRICTS MOST IN NEED OF ASSISTANCE, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN THE PLANNING, USE AND APPLICATIONS OF EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY. SUCH TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE SHALL INCLUDE BUT NOT BE LIMITED TO PROVIDING INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE REGARDING LONG TERM EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY PLANNING AND GOALS; METHODS FOR INTEGRATING TECHNOLOGY INTO CURRICULUM AND THE DEPARTMENT'S LEARNING STANDARDS; THE PURCHASE, INSTALLATION AND MAINTENANCE OF EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY EQUIPMENT; ANY ACTIVITIES RELATED TO THE TRAINING AND STAFF DEVELOPMENT OF TEACHERS AND OTHER INSTRUCTIONAL PERSONNEL IN SUCH EQUIPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY; AND SHARING EXAMPLES OF MODEL SCHOOL DISTRICT EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY PLANS,

PLANNING GUIDES, NEEDS ASSESSMENT SURVEYS, AND OTHER RELEVANT REFERENCES.

B. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL REVIEW REGIONAL OR DISTRICT-WIDE EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY PLANS TO ENSURE THAT MINIMUM COMPONENTS AS DESCRIBED IN THIS SECTION ARE ADDRESSED. UPON DETERMINING THAT SUCH MINIMUM COMPONENTS ARE ADDRESSED, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL APPROVE SUCH PLAN AND NOTIFY THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF SUCH APPROVAL.

C. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL SUBMIT A REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR, THE TEMPORARY PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE, THE SPEAKER OF THE ASSEMBLY, AND THE CHAIRPERSONS OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEES OF THE SENATE AND THE ASSEMBLY BY JANUARY FIRST, TWO THOUSAND TEN BASED ON INFORMATION GATHERED FROM REGIONAL AND DISTRICT-WIDE EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY PLANS AND OTHER DATA AVAILABLE TO THE DEPARTMENT. THE REPORT SHALL INCLUDE BUT NOT BE LIMITED TO THE FOLLOWING: PROJECTED COSTS FOR SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO IMPLEMENT EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY PLANS, AND FOR THE DEPARTMENT TO ASSIST SCHOOL DISTRICTS; THE APPLICATION OF LOCAL, STATE AND FEDERAL EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY AID IN MEETING SCHOOL DISTRICTS' EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY GOALS AND NEEDS; THE DEPARTMENT'S ACTIONS AND PLANS TO ASSIST SCHOOLS IN IMPLEMENTING EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY PLANS AND GOALS; RECOMMENDATIONS FOR STRUCTURING STATE EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY AID TO BEST SERVE SCHOOL DISTRICTS' EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY GOALS AND NEEDS AND ENSURE THE MOST EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT USE OF STATE AID; AND ANY OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS THE DEPARTMENT DEEMS RELEVANT.

S 4. This act shall take effect immediately.