

1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to instructional technology;  
3           amending s. 229.603, F.S.; providing  
4           requirements for school technology plans;  
5           requiring district technology plans; requiring  
6           the Department of Education to develop  
7           technology capability thresholds; revising  
8           requirements relating to the distribution and  
9           use of technology funding; eliminating  
10          provisions relating to technology grants and  
11          grant administration; revising the content of  
12          an annual report; creating s. 229.604, F.S.,  
13          relating to access to technology tools;  
14          requiring the Department of Education to  
15          develop a plan to increase student access to  
16          technology; amending s. 229.8041, F.S.;  
17          revising Department of Education actions  
18          regarding educational computing to include  
19          conducting evaluations regarding the  
20          achievement of technology thresholds; providing  
21          an effective date.

22  
23 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

24  
25           Section 1. Section 229.603, Florida Statutes, is  
26 amended to read:

27           229.603 Instructional Technology ~~Grant~~ Program.--There  
28 is created the Instructional Technology ~~Grant~~ Program.

29           (1) SCHOOL TECHNOLOGY PLANS.--Each school, including  
30 schools operating for the purpose of providing education  
31 services to youth in juvenile justice commitment and detention

1 facilities, must address proposals for implementing  
2 instructional technology in either the school improvement plan  
3 or a school technology plan which has been approved by the  
4 district school board, pursuant to s. 230.23(16)(a). The  
5 technology plan or the portion of the school improvement plan  
6 addressing technology must:

7 (a) Address the achievement of technology capability  
8 thresholds established by the Department of Education  
9 according to this section; and

10 (b) Address safe access to the school media center  
11 outside of the regular school day.

12 (2) DISTRICT TECHNOLOGY PLANS.--Each district must  
13 submit a district technology plan to the Department of  
14 Education that is a strategic, long-range plan that has been  
15 developed using information from the technology plans of  
16 schools in the district and the technology capability  
17 thresholds established by the Department of Education. The  
18 plan shall be for a period of at least 3 years but no more  
19 than 5 years and the initial district plan shall be submitted  
20 to the department by November 1, 2000. A new plan shall be  
21 submitted by November 1 in the final year of the prior plan  
22 and an update must be submitted by November 1 of each of the  
23 interim years for the duration of the plan. The plan shall  
24 include the following essential elements:

25 (a) A mission statement including, but not limited to,  
26 how the district will incorporate technology into the  
27 educational program to promote the effective use of technology  
28 to implement the state academic standards to improve student  
29 performance.

30 (b) A background component that includes, but is not  
31 limited to:

1           1. Relevant district, economic, geographic, and  
2 demographic factors affecting the implementation of  
3 technology.

4           2. The planning process used to develop the plan,  
5 which must include input from community, business, and  
6 industry.

7           (c) A needs assessment including, but not limited to,  
8 the following goals:

9           1. Identification of technology infrastructure,  
10 equipment, assistive technology, programming (educational  
11 materials, software, and media), replacement, training, and  
12 support needs.

13           2. Short-term goals to be achieved within 1 year and  
14 long-term goals to be achieved within 3 to 5 years. Both  
15 short-term and long-term goals shall be listed in a ranked  
16 priority order and shall be established considering the  
17 individual school technology plans and the technology  
18 capability thresholds established by the department.

19           (d) A funding plan linked to the technology capability  
20 thresholds.

21           (e) A technology acquisition plan that addresses:

22           1. Program development.

23           2. Procurement.

24           3. Achievement of the technology capability  
25 thresholds.

26           (f) An access plan that addresses:

27           1. Shared use.

28           2. Equitable access, including appropriate access to  
29 external instructional services and programming providers such  
30 as public libraries, charter schools, remote teaching sites,  
31 home school connections, and online products and services.

1           3. Security.

2           (g) A user support plan.

3           (h) A staff training plan which includes, but is not  
4 limited to, provisions for increasing use of technology in the  
5 classroom and media center according to the technology  
6 capability thresholds.

7           (i) A program evaluation which includes, but is not  
8 limited to, a description of how the technology acquired is  
9 being integrated into the school curriculum and affecting  
10 student achievement and progress toward meeting the  
11 educational goals of the state academic standards.

12           (3) TECHNOLOGY CAPABILITY THRESHOLDS.--The Department  
13 of Education shall, in consultation with high technology  
14 business and industry partners, develop technology capability  
15 thresholds that describe levels of reasonable standards of  
16 technological capability to be consecutively achieved in a  
17 school for the school to effectively utilize instructional  
18 technology. The technology capability thresholds shall be  
19 designed to ensure that Florida's students have skills that  
20 meet the needs of Florida businesses and industry and shall be  
21 updated annually. The department shall develop the technology  
22 capability thresholds by January 1, 2000. By January 1 each  
23 year thereafter, the thresholds must be updated.

24           (4)~~(1)~~ TECHNOLOGY GRANT FUNDING.--Beginning with the  
25 2000-2001 school year, districts shall distribute to schools  
26 the funds received for public school technology on the basis  
27 of technology issues addressed by the school in the school  
28 improvement plan pursuant to s. 230.23(16) or in a school plan  
29 for implementing instructional technology submitted to and  
30 approved by the district school board. To receive funding, a  
31 proposed project must be in a school that has achieved the

1 appropriate technology capability threshold for the proposed  
2 project and the proposed project must be consistent with the  
3 district's technology plan. Preference for funding shall be  
4 given to schools which meet one or more of the following  
5 criteria:

6 (a) The school has matched the request with other  
7 funds and private sector contributions to the maximum extent  
8 possible, as determined by the school board.

9 (b) The project is to be implemented in a critically  
10 low-performing school in order for that school to achieve the  
11 appropriate technology capability threshold.

12 ~~(a) Eighty percent of the funds appropriated for this~~  
13 ~~program shall be distributed by the Commissioner of Education~~  
14 ~~to the state's school districts on the basis of proposals~~  
15 ~~submitted for implementing instructional technology. These~~  
16 ~~funds may be used to replicate existing instructional~~  
17 ~~technology programs. At least 10 percent of these funds shall~~  
18 ~~be used for teacher and other related training.~~

19 ~~(b) At least 10 percent of the funds appropriated for~~  
20 ~~this program shall be used to fund research and development~~  
21 ~~and codevelopment of new instructional technologies and their~~  
22 ~~implementation in the classroom.~~

23 ~~(c) Up to 10 percent of the funds appropriated for~~  
24 ~~this program shall be used to fund new or innovative use of~~  
25 ~~instructional technology or use of new instructional~~  
26 ~~technology.~~

27 ~~(2) GRANT ADMINISTRATION.==~~

28 ~~(a) Project proposals must include the following:~~

29 ~~1. An outline of the proposed project activities and~~  
30 ~~project budget.~~

31

1           ~~2. A description of how the proposed project will~~  
2 ~~integrate instructional technology with regular classroom~~  
3 ~~teaching.~~

4           ~~3. A description of how the project incorporates~~  
5 ~~state-of-the-art instructional technology which utilizes~~  
6 ~~advanced integrated learning systems technology and other~~  
7 ~~newly developed systems geared to hands-on learning and to~~  
8 ~~developing higher order thinking skills, including~~  
9 ~~problem-solving skills, understanding of abstract concepts,~~  
10 ~~and high-level critical thinking and applied learning skills.~~

11           ~~4. A description of how the project will affect and be~~  
12 ~~incorporated into the overall implementation of instructional~~  
13 ~~technology in the school district over the next 5 years.~~

14           ~~5. A description of the anticipated project results~~  
15 ~~and procedures for assessing the success of the project.~~

16           ~~(b) During fiscal year 1990-1991, preference for grant~~  
17 ~~approval shall be given to projects which are dedicated to~~  
18 ~~elementary school implementation and which utilize advanced~~  
19 ~~technology to incorporate self-paced learning.~~

20           ~~(c) Preference for grant approval shall be given to~~  
21 ~~districts which maximize their match of the grant request with~~  
22 ~~district funds and private sector contributions.~~

23           ~~(d) The Department of Education shall adopt forms for~~  
24 ~~proposal applications.~~

25           ~~(e) Proposals shall be recommended to the commissioner~~  
26 ~~by a nine-member grant review panel appointed by the~~  
27 ~~commissioner. The panel shall consist of two teachers, two~~  
28 ~~district administrators, two business people, a school~~  
29 ~~administrator, and two additional members selected at the~~  
30 ~~commissioner's discretion.~~

31

1           ~~(f) A portion of the grant funds utilized by the~~  
2 ~~commissioner under paragraph (1)(c) may be utilized to:~~

- 3           ~~1. Administer the program.~~  
4           ~~2. Fund development and codevelopment activities.~~  
5           ~~3. Establish a clearinghouse to identify, evaluate,~~  
6 ~~and disseminate information regarding developments in the~~  
7 ~~private and public sectors of instructional technology,~~  
8 ~~including both software and hardware.~~  
9           ~~4. Disseminate information regarding successful~~  
10 ~~state-of-the-art systems, including an annual catalog of~~  
11 ~~exemplary projects and products.~~

12           ~~(g) The department shall assist grant recipients in~~  
13 ~~using state central purchasing resources to maximize cost~~  
14 ~~advantages and shall, where necessary, provide districts with~~  
15 ~~technical assistance for needs assessment and grant~~  
16 ~~preparation.~~

17           ~~(5)(3)~~ REPORTS.--Beginning January 1, 2000 ~~1991~~, the  
18 commissioner shall make an annual report to the Legislature  
19 within 60 days prior to the beginning of the regular  
20 legislative session. The report shall include:

21           (a) A summary of the status of the Instructional  
22 Technology ~~Grant~~ Program, including a description of the  
23 technology capability thresholds developed by the department  
24 according to this section, and the status of school  
25 achievement of the thresholds.

26           (b) Recommendations to improve the efficiency and  
27 promote the utilization of instructional technology.

28           Section 2. Section 229.604, Florida Statutes, is  
29 created to read:

30           229.604 Access to technology tools.--The Department of  
31 Education shall develop a plan to provide access for students

1 to technology to support students' educational progress in the  
2 community, at work, at school, and at home. The plan shall  
3 encourage districts and schools to furnish safe access to  
4 school media centers outside of the regular school day, and to  
5 consider the construction of entrances which may be accessed  
6 from the outer perimeter of the school campus when planning  
7 for new construction or remodeling projects.

8 Section 3. Paragraph (e) is added to subsection (2) of  
9 section 229.8041, Florida Statutes, to read:

10 229.8041 Educational computing.--

11 (2) IMPLEMENTATION OF POLICY.--The department is  
12 authorized and encouraged to assist school districts,  
13 community colleges, and state universities to make appropriate  
14 use of computing. Department actions for this purpose may  
15 include, but need not be limited to:

16 (e) Conducting evaluations of the status of school and  
17 district use of technology to determine if technology  
18 capability thresholds, as established by the department, are  
19 appropriate and effective.

20 Section 4. This act shall take effect upon becoming a  
21 law.