

By the Committee on Education; and Senator Clary

304-1640-04

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to education technology;  
3           creating the Florida Teaching and Learning  
4           Technology Initiative; providing for  
5           implementation by the Department of Education;  
6           providing for the appointment of a technology  
7           evaluation committee; providing for membership  
8           and duties of such committee; providing for the  
9           administration of grants to school districts;  
10          providing for the appointment of an independent  
11          contractor to evaluate the Florida Teaching and  
12          Learning Technology Initiative; requiring a  
13          report to the Governor and Legislature;  
14          providing an effective date.

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16 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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18           Section 1. (1) FLORIDA TEACHING AND LEARNING  
19 TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVE.--The Florida Teaching and Learning  
20 Technology Initiative is created within the Department of  
21 Education. The purpose of the Florida Teaching and Learning  
22 Technology Initiative is to enhance public education through  
23 the use of technology in the classroom, including portable,  
24 wireless technology products fully configured for digital  
25 media; to motivate and assist students to achieve at high  
26 levels with the recognition that students have different  
27 learning styles; to prepare students for the 21st century  
28 workforce; and to increase parental involvement in student  
29 academic achievement.

30           (2) ADMINISTRATION.--The Office of Educational  
31 Technology within the Department of Education shall be

1 responsible for administering the Florida Teaching and  
2 Learning Technology Initiative. In connection with this  
3 administrative responsibility, the Office of Educational  
4 Technology shall undertake the following actions, without  
5 limitation:

6 (a) Develop a public-private partnership between the  
7 Department of Education and a vendor of education technology  
8 products in order to offer to school districts, as needed, a  
9 learning solutions technology package that may include,  
10 without limitation, hardware, software, digital content,  
11 professional development, services, and support.

12 (b) Subject to appropriation, provide grants to school  
13 districts in connection with the Florida Teaching and Learning  
14 Technology Initiative.

15 (c) Provide for the evaluation of the efficacy of  
16 program activities connected to the Florida Teaching and  
17 Learning Technology Initiative.

18 (d) Consider the recommendations of the technology  
19 evaluation committee established pursuant to this section.

20 (3) TECHNOLOGY EVALUATION COMMITTEE.--No later than  
21 August 16, 2004, the Commissioner of Education shall appoint  
22 seven members of a technology evaluation committee to review  
23 partnership proposals from vendors in connection with the  
24 Florida Teaching and Learning Technology Initiative.

25 (a) The technology evaluation committee shall include:

26 1. A representative from the Florida Association of  
27 School Administrators;

28 2. The chair of the Florida Task Force for Providing  
29 Laptops Universally for Students;

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1           3. A representative from an urban local chamber of  
2 commerce recommended by the Board of Governors of the Florida  
3 Chamber of Commerce;

4           4. A representative from a suburban local economic  
5 development council recommended by the Florida Economic  
6 Development Council, Inc.;

7           5. A teacher from a local school district;

8           6. A representative from the Florida Council of  
9 Instructional Technology Leaders; and

10          7. The Executive Director of the Florida Learning  
11 Alliance.

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13 Each member may appoint a designee to serve on his or her  
14 behalf. However, any designee must be in a position that  
15 reports directly to the member.

16          (b) All appointments shall be for a 12-month term.  
17 All vacancies shall be filled in the manner of the original  
18 appointment for only the time remaining in the unexpired term.  
19 Any member of the committee may be removed by the Commissioner  
20 of Education for cause. The committee shall meet monthly as  
21 needed or upon the call of the chair, who shall be selected by  
22 a majority vote of the members. All meetings of the committee  
23 shall be open to the public. All records of committee motions  
24 and votes shall be made available by the Office of Educational  
25 Technology for public inspection and duplication.

26          (c) Members of the committee are entitled to  
27 reimbursement for per diem and travel expenses as provided in  
28 section 112.061, Florida Statutes. Members who are state  
29 officers or employees may be reimbursed for such expenses by  
30 their respective agencies.

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1           (d) The committee shall review all bids or proposals  
2 received from potential vendors pursuant to subsection (4) and  
3 shall make a recommendation for selection of a vendor to the  
4 Office of Educational Technology after a thorough review of  
5 all information submitted by each potential vendor, but no  
6 later than November 15, 2004.

7           (e) In appointing members of the committee, proper  
8 consideration shall be given to persons with experience or  
9 special knowledge in one or more of the following  
10 areas: education, business, economic development, or  
11 technology.

12           (4) EVALUATION OF PROPOSALS.--No later than August 16,  
13 2004, the Department of Education shall issue an invitation to  
14 bid or a request for proposals in accordance with section  
15 287.057, Florida Statutes, to identify the vendor that will  
16 partner with the Department of Education pursuant to the  
17 Florida Teaching and Learning Technology Initiative. All bids  
18 or proposals received shall be submitted to the technology  
19 evaluation committee for review.

20           (a) The criteria for evaluation of vendors who submit  
21 bids or proposals pursuant to this section shall be  
22 established by the Office of Educational Technology, but shall  
23 include, without limitation:

24           1. Experience in the development and successful  
25 implementation of large-scale, school-based wireless  
26 technology projects.

27           2. Demonstrated ability to deliver a learning  
28 technology package for elementary and secondary school  
29 students and teachers, including, without limitation, laptop  
30 computers, devices using wireless or mobile technology,  
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1 software, digital content, network services, maintenance, and  
2 professional development.

3 3. Experience in developing results-based education  
4 solutions to increase student achievement and advance  
5 professional development for teachers.

6 4. Ability to coordinate, use, and expand existing  
7 technology infrastructures and professional development  
8 delivery systems within school districts and regions.

9 5. Ability to provide a wireless or mobile technology  
10 device with digital media capability that is capable of  
11 connecting to a wireless network and accessing schools'  
12 preexisting local networks and the Internet, both wirelessly  
13 from within the school and through remote connections from  
14 outside the school.

15 6. Willingness to provide a program manager that will  
16 serve as the primary contact person or entity for the  
17 Department of Education and school districts in connection  
18 with the Florida Teaching and Learning Technology Initiative.

19 (b) The bid or proposal best meeting all evaluation  
20 criteria shall be selected by the Office of Educational  
21 Technology after consideration of the recommendation of the  
22 technology evaluation committee and after consultation with  
23 the Florida State Technology Office. The bid or proposal  
24 recommended by the technology evaluation committee and chosen  
25 by the Office of Educational Technology shall demonstrate  
26 efficiency and use economies of scale, shall be operable with  
27 existing technologies, and shall be consistent with the  
28 state's economic development and education policies.

29 (5) GRANTS.--Subject to appropriation of funds by the  
30 Legislature, the Office of Educational Technology shall  
31 administer grants to school districts under this section,

1 which shall be used initially for the provision by the state  
2 partner of wireless or mobile technology devices with digital  
3 media capability, related technology, and related services to  
4 students at grade levels 3, 6, 9, or 10 and their teachers,  
5 with expansion to other grades over the course of the grant  
6 term. If funds are appropriated for the grants established by  
7 this section, the Department of Education shall publicize the  
8 availability of the grants to all school districts as soon as  
9 practicable after such appropriation is made. Each grant shall  
10 be for a 3-year term, subject to yearly appropriation of funds  
11 by the Legislature. Grants to school districts made pursuant  
12 to this section shall be made on a competitive basis and shall  
13 be no more than ten in number. No more than three grants may  
14 be allocated to large school districts, no more than four  
15 grants may be allocated to medium school districts, and no  
16 more than three grants may be allocated to small school  
17 districts. In the absence of a sufficient number of grant  
18 applications for this allocation by school district size,  
19 remaining grants shall be awarded at the discretion of the  
20 Department of Education. The Department of Education shall  
21 establish criteria for determining what characteristics  
22 categorize school districts as small, medium, or large for  
23 purposes of this section.

24 (a) The Office of Educational Technology shall  
25 establish criteria for evaluating grant proposals submitted by  
26 school districts pursuant to this section, which criteria  
27 shall include, without limitation:

28 1. The school district's plan for improving learning  
29 through the use of wireless technology.

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1           2. The school district's ability to provide highly  
2 qualified teachers, as defined by the No Child Left Behind Act  
3 of 2001, for implementing the programs supported by the grant.

4           3. The school district's plan to share information and  
5 findings related to the grant activities with other school  
6 districts.

7           (b) A school district that receives a grant under this  
8 section shall provide a 25-percent match from public or  
9 private resources, in either cash or equivalent-value  
10 services, to cover required training programs and professional  
11 development for teachers in implementing the programs  
12 supported by the grant.

13           (c) A school district may elect to purchase or lease  
14 wireless laptop technology and related services from a vendor  
15 other than the state partner selected pursuant to subsection  
16 (4) at 75 percent of the grant amount if the school district's  
17 chosen vendor meets the eligibility criteria for such vendors  
18 set forth in subsection (4).

19           (6) INDEPENDENT PROGRAM EVALUATION.--No later than  
20 September 30, 2004, the Office of Educational Technology shall  
21 issue a second invitation to bid or request for proposals in  
22 accordance with section 287.057, Florida Statutes, for an  
23 independent contractor to evaluate the Florida Teaching and  
24 Learning Technology Initiative.

25           (a) The criteria used by the independent contractor to  
26 evaluate the Florida Teaching and Learning Technology  
27 Initiative must include, but need not be limited to:

28           1. Improvement in student academic achievement in  
29 reading and language arts, science, and mathematics  
30 attributable to the initiative programs.

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1           2. Improvement in student engagement, as determined by  
2 retention rates, dropout rates, detentions, and suspensions,  
3 which is attributable to the initiative programs.

4           3. Improvement in parental involvement and  
5 communication which is attributable to the initiative  
6 programs.

7           4. The economic impact of the initiative on  
8 communities around the state.

9           5. Improvement in the development of students' 21st  
10 century learning skills, such as critical thinking, problem  
11 solving, and teamwork, which is attributable to the initiative  
12 programs.

13           6. Satisfaction of the school districts and the Office  
14 of Educational Technology with the service and support of the  
15 state partner.

16           (b) An annual report by the independent evaluator  
17 shall be submitted to the Governor, the President of the  
18 Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by  
19 August 31 of each program year beginning in 2005 and ending in  
20 2007.

21           (7) IMPLEMENTATION.--This section shall be implemented  
22 only to the extent specifically funded and authorized by law.

23           Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a  
24 law.

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1                   STATEMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES CONTAINED IN  
2                   COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR  
3                   Senate Bill 116  
4 Removes all provisions related to the Harnessing the Power of  
5 Education Technology Advisory Council.  
6 Creates the Florida Teaching and Learning Technology  
7 Initiative in the Florida Department of Education.  
8 Requires the Department of Education to issue an invitation to  
9 bid or request for proposals from vendors to provide  
10 technology to school districts as the state's partner under  
11 the Florida Teaching and Learning Technology Initiative.  
12 Establishes a 7-member technology evaluation committee to  
13 review bids or proposals and recommend a vendor to the Office  
14 of Educational Technology within the Department of Education.  
15 Requires the Office of Educational Technology to provide ten  
16 3-year grants to school districts for the purchase of  
17 technology and services from the vendor.  
18 Requires the Office of Educational Technology to issue a  
19 second invitation to bid or request for proposals for an  
20 independent party to evaluate the Florida Teaching and  
21 Learning Technology Initiative.  
22 Requires the independent evaluator to report to the Governor,  
23 the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of  
24 Representatives by August 31 of each program year.  
25 Provides that the bill will only be implemented to the extent  
26 specifically funded and authorized by law.  
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