

By the Committees on Governmental Oversight and Productivity;
Education; and Senator Clary

302-2074-04

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 Learning;

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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 Alliance for
9 Assistive Services and Technology; 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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26 STATEMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES CONTAINED IN
27 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
28 CS for SB 116

29 The CS for CS for SB 116 corrects an erroneous reference to a
30 technology advisory body and substitutes a member of the
31 Florida Alliance for Assistive Services and Technology for the
member representing the Florida Council for Instructional
Technology Leaders.