

107TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1889

To improve the utilization of educational technologies in elementary and secondary education by creating an educational technology extension service.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 17, 2001

Mr. BARCIA (for himself and Mr. WU) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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## A BILL

To improve the utilization of educational technologies in elementary and secondary education by creating an educational technology extension service.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.**

4 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

5 (1) Extension services such as the Manufac-  
6 turing Extension Partnership and the Agricultural  
7 Extension Service have proven to be effective public-  
8 private partnerships to integrate new technologies

1 and to improve utilization of existing technologies by  
2 small to medium sized manufacturers and the  
3 United States agricultural community.

4 (2) Undergraduate institutions of higher edu-  
5 cation working with nonprofit organizations and  
6 State and Federal agencies can tailor educational  
7 technology extension programs to meet specific local  
8 and regional requirements.

9 (3) Undergraduate institutions of higher edu-  
10 cation, often with the assistance of the National  
11 Science Foundation, have during the past 20 years  
12 been integrating educational technologies into their  
13 curriculums, and as such can draw upon their own  
14 experiences to advise elementary and secondary  
15 school educators on ways to integrate a variety of  
16 educational technologies into the educational proc-  
17 ess.

18 (4) Many elementary and secondary school sys-  
19 tems, particularly in rural and traditionally under-  
20 served areas, lack general information on the most  
21 effective methods to integrate their existing tech-  
22 nology infrastructure, as well as new educational  
23 technology, into the educational process and cur-  
24 riculum.

1           (5) Most Federal and State educational tech-  
2 nology programs have focused on acquiring edu-  
3 cational technologies with less emphasis on the utili-  
4 zation of those technologies in the classroom and the  
5 training and infrastructural requirements needed to  
6 efficiently support those types of technologies. As a  
7 result, in many instances, the full potential of edu-  
8 cational technology has not been realized.

9           (6) Our global economy is increasingly reliant  
10 on a workforce not only comfortable with technology,  
11 but also able to integrate rapid technological  
12 changes into the production process. As such, in  
13 order to remain competitive in a global economy, it  
14 is imperative that we maintain a work-ready labor  
15 force.

16           (7) According to “Teacher Quality: A Report on  
17 the Preparation and Qualifications of Public School  
18 Teachers”, prepared by the Department of Edu-  
19 cation, only 1 in 5 teachers felt well prepared to  
20 work in a modern classroom.

21           (8) The most common form of professional de-  
22 velopment for teachers continues to be workshops  
23 that typically last no more than 1 day and have little  
24 relevance to teachers’ work in the classroom.

1           (9) A 1998 national survey completed by the  
2 Department of Education found that only 19 per-  
3 cent of teachers had been formally mentored by an-  
4 other teacher, and that 70 percent of these teachers  
5 felt that this collaboration was very helpful to their  
6 teaching.

7           (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to improve  
8 the utilization of educational technologies in elementary  
9 and secondary education by creating an educational tech-  
10 nology extension service based at intermediate school dis-  
11 tricts, regional education service agencies, or under-  
12 graduate institutions of higher education.

13 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

14           In this Act:

15           (1) The term “Director” means the Director of  
16 the National Science Foundation.

17           (2) The term “institution of higher education”  
18 has the meaning given that term in section 101 of  
19 the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.  
20 1001).

21 **SEC. 3. EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY UTILIZATION EXTEN-**  
22 **SION ASSISTANCE.**

23           (a) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—

24           (1) GENERAL AUTHORITY—The Director, in co-  
25 operation with the Secretary of Education and the

1 Director of the National Institute of Standards and  
2 Technology, is authorized to provide assistance for  
3 the creation and support of regional centers for the  
4 utilization of educational technologies (hereinafter in  
5 this Act referred to as “ETU Centers”).

6 (2) FUNCTIONS OF CENTERS—

7 (A) ESTABLISHMENT.—ETU Centers may  
8 be established at any intermediate school dis-  
9 trict, regional education service agency, institu-  
10 tion of higher education, or consortium of such  
11 entities, but such Centers may include the par-  
12 ticipation of nonprofit entities.

13 (B) OBJECTIVES OF CENTERS.—The objec-  
14 tive of ETU Centers is to enhance the utiliza-  
15 tion of educational technologies in elementary  
16 and secondary education through—

17 (i) advising elementary and secondary  
18 school administrators, school boards, and  
19 teachers on the adoption and utilization of  
20 new educational technologies and the util-  
21 ity of local schools’ existing educational  
22 technology assets and infrastructure;

23 (ii) participation of individuals from  
24 the private sector, universities, State and

1 local governments, and other Federal agen-  
2 cies;

3 (iii) active dissemination of technical  
4 and management information about the  
5 use of educational technologies; and

6 (iv) utilization, if appropriate, of the  
7 expertise and capabilities that exist in Fed-  
8 eral laboratories and Federal agencies.

9 (C) ACTIVITIES OF CENTERS.—The activi-  
10 ties of ETU Centers shall include the following:

11 (i) The active transfer and dissemina-  
12 tion of research findings and ETU Center  
13 expertise to local school authorities, includ-  
14 ing school administrators, school boards,  
15 and teachers.

16 (ii) The training of teachers in the in-  
17 tegration of local schools' existing edu-  
18 cational technology infrastructure into  
19 their instructional design.

20 (iii) The training and advising of  
21 teachers, administrators, and school board  
22 members in the acquisition, utilization, and  
23 support of educational technologies.

24 (iv) Support services to teachers, ad-  
25 ministrators, and school board members as

1           agreed upon by ETU Center representa-  
2           tives and local school authorities.

3           (v) The advising of teachers, adminis-  
4           trators, and school board members on cur-  
5           rent skill set standards employed by pri-  
6           vate industry.

7           (3) PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION.—

8           (A) PROPOSED RULES.—The Director,  
9           after consultation with the Secretary of Edu-  
10          cation and the Director of the National Insti-  
11          tute of Standards and Technology, shall publish  
12          in the Federal Register, not later than 90 days  
13          after the date of the enactment of this Act, pro-  
14          posed rules for the program for establishing  
15          ETU Centers, including—

16                 (i) a description of the program;

17                 (ii) the procedures to be followed by  
18                 applicants;

19                 (iii) the criteria for determining quali-  
20                 fied applicants; and

21                 (iv) the criteria, including those listed  
22                 in this section, for choosing recipients of fi-  
23                 nancial assistance under this Act from  
24                 among qualified applicants.

1           (B) FINAL RULES.—The Director shall  
2 publish final rules for the program under this  
3 Act after the expiration of a 30-day comment  
4 period on such proposed rules.

5           (4) ELIGIBILITY AND SELECTION.—

6           (A) APPLICATIONS REQUIRED.—Any inter-  
7 mediate school district, regional education serv-  
8 ice agency, undergraduate institution of higher  
9 education, or consortium of any of those enti-  
10 ties may submit an application for financial  
11 support under this Act in accordance with the  
12 procedures established under this Act. In order  
13 to receive assistance under this Act, an appli-  
14 cant shall provide adequate assurances that the  
15 applicant will contribute 50 percent or more of  
16 the proposed ETU Center’s capital and annual  
17 operating and maintenance costs.

18           (B) SELECTION.—The Director, in con-  
19 junction with the Secretary of Education and  
20 the Director of the National Institute of Stand-  
21 ards and Technology, shall subject each applica-  
22 tion to competitive, merit-based review. In mak-  
23 ing a decision whether to approve such applica-  
24 tion and provide financial support under this



1 Act, the Director of the National Science Foun-  
2 dation shall consider, at a minimum—

3 (i) the merits of the application, par-  
4 ticularly those portions of the application  
5 regarding the adaptation of training and  
6 educational technologies to the needs of  
7 particular regions;

8 (ii) the quality of service to be pro-  
9 vided;

10 (iii) the geographical diversity and ex-  
11 tent of service area, with particular empha-  
12 sis on rural and traditionally under-  
13 developed areas; and

14 (iv) the percentage of funding and  
15 amount of in-kind commitment from other  
16 sources.

17 (C) EVALUATION.—Each ETU Center that  
18 receives financial assistance under this Act shall  
19 be evaluated during its third year of operation  
20 by an evaluation panel appointed by the Direc-  
21 tor. Each evaluation panel shall measure the in-  
22 volved ETU Center’s performance against the  
23 objectives specified in this Act. Funding for an  
24 ETU Center shall not be renewed unless the  
25 evaluation is positive.

1       (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
2 are authorized to be appropriated to the National Science  
3 Foundation to carry out this Act \$7,000,000 for fiscal  
4 year 2002, \$8,500,000 for fiscal year 2003, and  
5 \$9,500,000 for fiscal year 2004.

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