

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1337

To provide for national digital school districts.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

AUGUST 2, 2001

Ms. CANTWELL introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To provide for national digital school districts.

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. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “National Digital
5 School Districts Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. NATIONAL DIGITAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS.**

7 (a) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this section are—

8 (1) to address the important role that tech-
9 nology and the Internet can play in enhancing and
10 improving education in the schools of the United
11 States when resources are allocated strategically and
12 effectively;

1 (2) to assist State and local school administra-
2 tors in the United States in effectively devoting re-
3 sources on proven methods to incorporate the use of
4 high technology and the Internet in educational cur-
5 ricula;

6 (3) to encourage the development of innovative
7 strategic approaches to the appropriate and effective
8 use of technology in teaching, learning, and man-
9 aging elementary schools and secondary schools;

10 (4) to evaluate and assess the various strategies
11 described in paragraph (3) and provide models for
12 the innovative use of technology in schools in the
13 United States; and

14 (5) to encourage partnerships between edu-
15 cational institutions and the private sector relating
16 to the use of technology described in paragraph (3)
17 in schools in the United States.

18 (b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

19 (1) ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL;
20 STATE AND LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES.—The
21 terms “elementary school”, “secondary school”,
22 State educational agency” and “local educational
23 agency” have the meanings given such terms in the
24 Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965
25 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.).

1 (2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
2 the Secretary of Education.

3 (3) STATE.—The term “State” means 1 of the
4 several States of the United States and the District
5 of Columbia.

6 (4) STATE EDUCATIONAL AGENCY.—The term
7 “State educational agency” means the State edu-
8 cational agency of a State.

9 (c) GRANTS TO STATE EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES.—

10 (1) FISCAL YEAR 2002.—For fiscal year 2002,
11 the Secretary shall award 1 grant to each State edu-
12 cational agency to make subgrants to local edu-
13 cational agencies to create national digital school
14 districts.

15 (2) FISCAL YEAR 2003.—

16 (A) IN GENERAL.—For fiscal year 2003,
17 the Secretary shall award 1 grant to each State
18 educational agency to pay for the Federal share
19 of the cost of making subgrants to local edu-
20 cational agencies to create national digital
21 school districts.

22 (B) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share
23 of the cost referred to in subparagraph (A) is
24 50 percent.

1 (3) STATE APPLICATIONS.—To be eligible to re-
2 ceive a grant under this section, a State educational
3 agency shall submit an application to the Secretary
4 at such time, in such manner, and containing such
5 information as the Secretary may reasonably re-
6 quire.

7 (d) SUBGRANTS TO LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGEN-
8 CIES.—

9 (1) SUBGRANTS.—A State educational agency
10 that receives a grant under subsection (c) shall use
11 not less than 95 percent of the funds made available
12 through the grant to make subgrants, on a competi-
13 tive basis, to local educational agencies.

14 (2) NOTICE.—The State educational agency
15 shall provide notice to all local educational agencies
16 in the State of the availability of subgrants under
17 this subsection and of the requirements for applying
18 for the subgrants.

19 (3) LOCAL APPLICATIONS.—To be eligible to re-
20 ceive a subgrant under this section, a local edu-
21 cational agency shall submit an application to the
22 State educational agency at such time, in such man-
23 ner, and containing such information as the State
24 educational agency may reasonably require.

1 (4) USE OF SUBGRANTS.—A local educational
2 agency that receives a subgrant under this sub-
3 section may use the funds made available through
4 the subgrant to create a national digital school dis-
5 trict by—

6 (A) acquiring technology;

7 (B) providing teacher mentoring; and

8 (C) carrying out other efforts to achieve
9 the purposes of this section.

10 (e) ACADEMIC RESEARCH.—The Secretary shall
11 award grants, on a competitive basis, for fiscal year 2004
12 to institutions of higher education, to conduct research on
13 the effectiveness of the technology used in national digital
14 school districts.

15 (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
16 are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be
17 necessary to carry out this section.

18 **SEC. 3. NATIONAL EVALUATION OF TECHNOLOGY PLANS.**

19 Not later than 36 months after the date of enactment
20 of this Act, the Secretary, in consultation with other Fed-
21 eral departments or agencies, State and local educational
22 practitioners, and policy makers, including teachers, prin-
23 cipals and superintendents, and experts in technology and
24 the application of technology to education, shall report to
25 Congress on best practices in implementing technology ef-

- 1 fectionally. The report shall include recommendations for the
- 2 purpose of establishing best practices that can be widely
- 3 implemented by State and local educational agencies.

