

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1786

To enable America's schools to use their computer hardware to increase student achievement and prepare students for the 21st century workplace.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 12, 1999

Mr. ROTHMAN (for himself and Mrs. ROUKEMA) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To enable America's schools to use their computer hardware to increase student achievement and prepare students for the 21st century workplace.

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 "Education for the 21st
5 Century (E-21) Act".

6 **SEC. 2. PURPOSE.**

7 It is the purpose of this Act to enable America's
8 schools to use their computer hardware to increase student
9 achievement and prepare students for the 21st century
10 workplace.

1 **SEC. 3. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress makes the following findings:

3 (1) Establishing computer literacy programs for
4 students will help ensure that our children are re-
5 ceiving the skills needed for advanced education and
6 for securing employment in the 21st century.

7 (2) Computer literacy skills, such as informa-
8 tion gathering, critical analysis and communication
9 with the latest technology, build upon the necessary
10 basics of reading, writing, mathematics, and other
11 core subject areas.

12 (3) According to a study conducted by the Edu-
13 cational Testing Service (ETS), eighth grade mathe-
14 matics students whose teachers used computers for
15 simulations and applications outperformed students
16 whose teachers did not use such educational tech-
17 nology.

18 (4) Although an ever increasing amount of
19 schools are obtaining the latest computer hardware,
20 schools will not be able to take advantage of the ben-
21 efits of computer-based learning unless teachers are
22 effectively trained in the latest educational software
23 applications.

24 (5) The Educational Testing Service (ETS)
25 study showed that students whose teachers received
26 training in computers performed better than other

1 students. The study also found that schools that
2 provide teachers with professional development in
3 computers enjoyed higher staff morale and lower ab-
4 senteeism rates.

5 (6) Some of the most exciting applications in
6 educational technology are being developed not only
7 by commercial software companies, but also by sec-
8 ondary school and college students. The fruit of this
9 academic talent should be channeled more effectively
10 to benefit our Nation's elementary and secondary
11 schools.

12 **SEC. 4. COMPUTER LITERACY CHALLENGE.**

13 (a) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—

14 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Education
15 is authorized to award grants to States that inte-
16 grate into the State curriculum the goal of making
17 all middle school graduates in the State technology
18 literate.

19 (2) PRIORITY.—The Secretary shall give pref-
20 erence in awarding grants under this section to
21 States which place a priority on training middle
22 school teachers.

23 (b) USES.—Grants awarded under this section shall
24 be used for teacher training in technology, with an empha-
25 sis on programs that prepare 1 or more teachers in each

1 elementary, middle, and secondary school in the State to
2 become technology leaders who then serve as experts and
3 train other teachers.

4 (c) MATCHING FUNDS.—Each State shall encourage
5 schools that receive assistance under this section to pro-
6 vide matching funds, with respect to the cost of teacher
7 training in technology to be assisted under this section,
8 in order to enhance the impact of the teacher training and
9 to help ensure that all middle school graduates in the
10 State are computer literate.

11 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
12 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
13 \$30,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2000 through
14 2004.

15 **SEC. 5. HIGH-QUALITY EDUCATIONAL SOFTWARE FOR ALL**
16 **SCHOOLS.**

17 (a) COMPETITION AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary of
18 Education is authorized to award grants, on a competitive
19 basis, to secondary school and college students working
20 with university faculty, software developers, and experts
21 in educational technology for the development of high-
22 quality educational software and Internet web sites by
23 such students, faculty, developers, and experts.

24 (b) RECOGNITION.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Education
2 shall recognize outstanding educational software and
3 Internet web sites developed with assistance provided
4 under this section.

5 (2) CERTIFICATES.—The President is requested
6 to, and the Secretary shall, issue an official certifi-
7 cate signed by the President and Secretary, to each
8 student and faculty member who develops out-
9 standing educational software or an Internet web
10 site recognized under this section.

11 (c) FOCUS.—The educational software or Internet
12 web sites that are recognized under this section shall focus
13 on core curriculum areas.

14 (d) PRIORITY.—

15 (1) FIRST YEAR.—For the first year that the
16 Secretary awards grants under this section, the Sec-
17 retary shall give priority to awarding grants for the
18 development of educational software or Internet web
19 sites in the areas of mathematics, science, and read-
20 ing.

21 (2) SECOND AND THIRD YEARS.—For the sec-
22 ond and third years that the Secretary awards
23 grants under this section, the Secretary shall give
24 priority to awarding grants for the development of
25 educational software or Internet web sites in the

1 areas described in paragraph (1) and in social stud-
2 ies, the humanities, and the arts.

3 (e) JUDGES.—The Secretary shall designate official
4 judges to recognize outstanding educational software or
5 Internet web sites assisted under this section.

6 (f) DOWNLOADING.—Educational software recog-
7 nized under this section shall be made available to local
8 educational agencies for free downloading from the De-
9 partment of Education's Internet web site. Internet web
10 sites recognized under this section shall be accessible to
11 any user of the World Wide Web.

12 (g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
13 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
14 \$5,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2000 through
15 2004.

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