

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2417

To establish an educational technology extension service at colleges and universities.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 1, 1999

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

A BILL

To establish an educational technology extension service at colleges and universities.

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 “Educational Tech-
5 nology Utilization Extension Assistance Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. PURPOSE.**

7 It is the purpose of this Act to improve the utilization
8 of educational technologies in elementary and secondary
9 education by creating an educational technology extension

1 service based at undergraduate institutions of higher edu-
2 cation.

3 **SEC. 3. FINDINGS.**

4 The 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
9 and to improve utilization of existing technologies by
10 small to medium sized manufacturers and the
11 United States agricultural community.

12 (2) Undergraduate institutions of higher edu-
13 cation working with non-profit organizations, State,
14 and Federal agencies can tailor educational tech-
15 nology extension programs to meet specific local and
16 regional requirements.

17 (3) Undergraduate institutions of higher edu-
18 cation, often with the assistance of the National
19 Science Foundation, have for the past 20 years been
20 integrating educational technologies into their cur-
21 ricula, and as such they can draw upon their own
22 experiences to advise elementary and secondary
23 school educators on ways to integrate a variety of
24 educational technologies into the educational proc-
25 ess.

1 (4) Many elementary and secondary school sys-
2 tems, particularly in rural and traditionally under
3 served areas, lack general information on the most
4 effective methods to integrate their existing tech-
5 nology infrastructure, as well as new educational
6 technology, into the educational process and cur-
7 riculum.

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

16 (6) Our global economy is increasingly reliant
17 on a workforce not only comfortable with technology,
18 but also able to integrate rapid technological
19 changes into the production process. As such, in
20 order to remain competitive in a global economy, it
21 is imperative that we maintain a work-ready labor
22 force.

23 (7) According to “Teacher Quality: A Report on
24 the Preparation and Qualifications of Public School
25 Teacher”, prepared by the Department of Edu-

1 cation, only 1 in 5 teachers felt they were well pre-
2 pared to work in a modern classroom.

3 (8) The most common form of professional de-
4 velopment for teachers continue to be workshops
5 that typically last no more than one day and have
6 little relevance to teachers' work in the classroom.

7 (9) A 1998 national survey completed by the
8 Department of Education found that only 19 per-
9 cent of teachers had been formally mentored by an-
10 other teacher, and that 70 percent of these teachers
11 felt that this collaboration was very helpful to their
12 teaching.

13 **SEC. 4. PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.**

14 (a) GENERAL AUTHORITY.—The Director of the Na-
15 tional Science Foundation, in cooperation with the Sec-
16 retary of Education and the Director of the National Insti-
17 tute of Standards and Technology, shall provide assistance
18 for the creation and support of regional centers for the
19 utilization of educational technologies (hereinafter in this
20 Act referred to as “ETU Centers”).

21 (b) FUNCTIONS OF CENTERS.—

22 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—ETU Centers may be
23 established at any institution of higher education,
24 but such centers may include the participation of
25 non-profit entities, organizations, or groups thereof.

1 (2) OBJECTIVES OF CENTERS.—The objective
2 of the ETU Centers is to enhance the utilization of
3 educational technologies in elementary and sec-
4 ondary education through—

5 (A) advising of elementary and secondary
6 school administrators, school boards, and teach-
7 ers on the adoption and utilization of new edu-
8 cational technologies and the utility of local
9 schools' existing educational technology assets
10 and infrastructure;

11 (B) participation of individuals from the
12 private sector, universities, State and local gov-
13 ernments, and other Federal agencies;

14 (C) active dissemination of technical and
15 management information about the use of edu-
16 cational technologies; and

17 (D) utilization, where appropriate, of the
18 expertise and capabilities that exists in Federal
19 laboratories and Federal agencies.

20 (3) ACTIVITIES OF CENTERS.—The activities of
21 the ETU Centers shall include the following:

22 (A) The active transfer and dissemination
23 of research findings and ETU Center expertise
24 to local school authorities, including but not

1 limited to school administrators, school boards,
2 and teachers.

3 (B) The training of teachers in the inte-
4 gration of local schools existing educational
5 technology infrastructure into their instruc-
6 tional design.

7 (C) The training and advising of teachers,
8 administrators, and school board members in
9 the acquisition, utilization, and support of edu-
10 cational technologies.

11 (D) Support services to teachers, adminis-
12 trators, and school board members as agreed
13 upon by ETU Center representatives and local
14 school authorities.

15 (E) The advising of teachers, administra-
16 tors, and school board members on current skill
17 set standards employed by private industry.

18 (c) PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION.—

19 (1) PROPOSED RULES.—The Director of the
20 National Science Foundation, after consultation with
21 the Secretary of Education and the Director of the
22 National Institute of Standards and Technology,
23 shall publish in the Federal Register, within 90 days
24 after the date of the enactment of this Act, a pro-

posed rules for the program for establishing ETU
Centers, including—

(A) a description of the program;

(B) the procedure to be followed by applicant;

(C) the criteria for determining qualified applicants; and

(D) the criteria, including those listed in the following sections, for choosing recipients of financial assistance under this section from among qualified applicants.

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

(d) ELIGIBILITY AND SELECTION.—

(1) APPLICATIONS REQUIRED.—Any undergraduate institution of higher education, consortia of such institutions, non-profit organizations, or groups thereof may submit an application for financial support under this section in accordance with the procedures established under subsection (c). In order to receive assistance under this Act, an applicant shall provide adequate assurances that will contribute 50

1 percent or more of the proposed Center's capital and
2 annual operating and maintenance costs.

3 (2) SELECTION.—The Director of the National
4 Science Foundation, in conjunction with the Sec-
5 retary of Education and the Director of the National
6 Institute of Standards and Technology, shall subject
7 each application to competitive, merit review. In
8 making a decision whether to approve such applica-
9 tion and provide financial support under this section,
10 the Director of the National Science Foundation
11 shall consider at a minimum—

12 (A) the merits of the application, particu-
13 larly those portions of the application regarding
14 the adaption of training and educational tech-
15 nologies to the needs of particular regions;

16 (B) the quality of service to be provided;

17 (C) the geographical diversity and extent
18 of service area, with particular emphasis on
19 rural and traditionally underdeveloped areas;
20 and

21 (D) the percentage of funding and amount
22 of in-kind commitment from other sources.

23 (3) EVALUATION.—Each ETU Center which re-
24 ceives financial assistance under this section shall be
25 evaluated during its third year of operation by an

1 evaluation panel appointed by the Director of the
2 National Science Foundation. Each evaluation panel
3 shall measure the involved Center’s performance
4 against the objectives specified in this section. Fund-
5 ing for an ETU Center shall not be renewed unless
6 the evaluation is positive.

7 **SEC. 6. DEFINITION.**

8 As used in this Act, the term “institution of higher
9 education” has the meaning given that term by section
10 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
11 1001).

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