Policy, Programs and Leadership

The U.S. Department of Education's Office of Educational Technology (OET) coordinates Department-wide educational technology programs; develops national educational technology policy; and implements this policy through ED's programs. Working closely with the offices of Elementary and Secondary Education (OESE), Educational Research and Improvement (OERI), Postsecondary Education (OPE), Vocational and Adult Education (OVAE), and Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS), OET helps to ensure that ED's programs are also coordinated with efforts across the federal government. A primary focus of OET's work is evaluating the effectiveness of educational technology. OET's leadership priorities currently include: promoting equal access to technology, ensuring Internet safety, encouraging new strategies for software development, and planning the nation's long-term policy for educational technology.

Educational Technology publications are available at http://www.ed.gov/Technology/ or by calling 1-877-4ED-PUBS or 1-800-USA-LEARN.

Our most requested publications include:

Getting America's Students Ready for the 21st Century: Meeting the Technology Literacy Challenge

Parents Guide to the Internet

An Educator's Guide to Evaluating the Use of Technology in Schools and Classrooms

Distance Education in Higher Education Institutions

Every child in America deserves a 21st Century education and access to 21st Century technology.
Vice President Gore

National Educational Technology Goals

1. All teachers and students will have modern computers in their classrooms;
2. Every classroom will be connected to the information superhighway;
3. All teachers in the nation will have the training and support they need to help all students learn through computers and the information superhighway; and
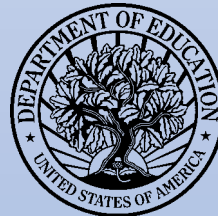4. Effective and engaging software and online resources will be an integral part of every school curriculum.

U.S. Department of Education
Office of Educational Technology
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Suite 6W301
Washington, DC 20202
Phone: (202) 401-1444
Fax: (202) 401-3941
Web site: http://www.ed.gov/Technology/

Educational Technology Programs

at the
U.S. Department of Education

Educational Technology Programs at the U.S. Department of Education

Capacity Building

Technology Literacy Challenge Fund: This program provides funding to help states develop and implement plans to meet the four national educational technology goals. Contact OESE at 202-401-0039 or go to http://www.ed.gov/Technology/TLCF/.

Professional Development

Preparing Tomorrow's Teachers to Use Technology: This program helps ensure that tomorrow's teachers are prepared to integrate technology effectively into the curriculum and to use the new teaching and learning styles enabled by technology. Contact OPE at 202-502-7788 or go to www.ed.gov/teachtech/.

Innovation

Technology Innovation Challenge Grants: This program promotes innovative uses of educational technology by awarding grants to partnerships of school districts, universities, businesses, libraries, software designers, and others. Contact OERI at 202-208-3882 or go to http://www.ed.gov/Technology/challenge/.

Distance Learning

Star Schools: This program supports projects that utilize distance learning technology to provide instructional programs to students and professional development to teachers in underserved populations. Contact OERI at 202-219-2186 or go to http://www.ed.gov/prog_info/StarSchools/index.html.

Learning Anytime Anywhere Partnerships: This program supports partnerships of colleges, universities, businesses, community organizations, or other entities that deliver quality postsecondary distance education. Contact OPE at 202-502-7500 or go to http://www.ed.gov/offices/OPE/FIPSE/LAAP/.

Community Networks

Community Technology Centers: This program expands access to technology centers in low-income communities. Contact OVAE at 202-260-2499 or go to http://www.ed.gov/offices/OVAE/CTC/.

Technical Assistance

Regional Technology in Education Consortia: These 10 centers provide states, school districts, adult literacy programs, and other education institutions with professional development, technical assistance and information about the use of advanced technologies to improve teaching and learning. Contact OERI at 202-219-1739 or go to http://rtec.org/.

Research

Interagency Education Research Initiative: This is an initiative of the U.S. Department of Education, National Science Foundation and National Institutes of Health to focus expertise in research, evaluation, and educational technology on achieving two important educational goals: Ensuring that all children have acquired the foundations of mathematics and reading by the end of grade three, and ensuring that all mathematics, science, and reading teachers have high-level content in these areas. Contact OERI at 202-219-1935 or go to http://www.ehr.nsf.gov/eri-ed-nsf/.

Other Federal Resources

Federal Communications Commission: The FCC oversees the E-Rate (Education Rate), which provides affordable access to advanced telecommunications services for all schools and libraries in the United States. Contact the Schools and Libraries Division at 202-776-0200 or go to http://www.sl.universalservice.org/.

Federal Resources for Educational Excellence: FREE is an Internet tool for teaching and learning that makes hundreds of federally supported education resources available at http://www.ed.gov/free/.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration: NASA provides online educational programs and services. Visit http://education.nasa.gov.

National Science Foundation: NSF makes grants and awards in all areas of science, mathematics, and engineering education. Contact NSF at 703-292-5111 or go to http://www.nsf.gov/home/grants.htm.

U.S. Department of Agriculture: USDA's Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grants support telemedicine services and distance learning services in rural areas. Contact the Rural Utilities Service at 202-720-9540 or go to http://www.usda.gov/rus/.

U.S. Department of Commerce: Commerce's Technology Opportunities Program (TOP) assists in effectively using telecommunications and information technologies. Contact TOP at 202-482-2048 or go to http://www.ntia.doc.gov/otiahome/top/index.html.

U.S. Department of Energy: DOE has ten national laboratories, thirty technology centers and research facilities. It also runs Computers for Learning, which will place hundreds of thousands of surplus government computers in U.S. classrooms. Contact Computers for Learning at 202-501-3846 or go to http://www.computers.fed.gov.

Web-based Education Commission: In fall 2000, the WBEC will recommend actions to help insure that all learners have full and equal access to the capabilities of the World Wide Web. Contact the WBEC at 202 219-7045 or go to www.webcommission.org.