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July 29, 2008

The Honorable George Miller
Chair, House Education & Labor Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Miller:

Subject: HEA Reauthorization – Preparing Teachers for Digital Age Learners

On behalf of the International Society for Technology (ISTE) in Education, I am writing to express our strong support for the “Preparing Teachers for Digital Age Learners” program included in the Higher Education Act Reauthorization Conference Report. Reaching more than 85,000 education professionals worldwide, ISTE provides leadership and service to improve teaching, learning, and school leadership by advancing the effective use of technology in PK-12 and teacher education.

In today’s climate of economic global competitiveness it is incumbent upon our nation to produce teachers who have the skills and expertise to prepare students who will succeed in this environment. New teachers must enter the classroom with an expertise in integrating technology into classroom learning for raising student learning outcomes, and developing skills for the 21st Century such as higher order thinking, learning and problem solving skills, and creativity and innovation.

Again, we thank you for your leadership and support of the “Preparing Teachers for Digital Age Learners” program in the HEA Conference Report. I would like to extend a special thank-you to Gabriella Gomez and Julie Radocchia on your staff. If you have any questions or if ISTE can be of additional service please do not hesitate to contact me or ISTE’s Director of Government Affairs, Hilary Goldmann at 202-861-7777 or hgoldmann@iste.org.

Sincerely,

Donald G. Knezek
Chief Executive Officer