

Enhancing Education Through Technology¹⁸

Purpose of the Program

The primary goal of this program is to improve student academic achievement through the use of technology in elementary and secondary schools. The program also seeks to: (1) ensure that every student is technologically literate by the end of the second grade; and (2) establish research-based instructional methods through the effective integration of technology, professional development for teachers, and curriculum development.

New Program Improvements and Resources

The *No Child Left Behind Act* establishes this program by consolidating several programs into a single State formula-grant program. This change will help improve children's education by focusing the program on improving student achievement and focusing funds on the poorest schools.

Last year, President Bush signed legislation that provides \$700 million for this program in FY-02. This year, President Bush's budget proposes sustaining this commitment in FY-03.

Highlights:

- Funds are allocated to States based on their Title I allocations. States may retain up to 5 percent. The remainder is awarded to districts, one-half by formula, one-half competitively.
- This program is designed to assist States in establishing comprehensive systems, including infrastructure, to effectively use technology to improve academic achievement.
- At least 25 percent of the funding must be used to provide professional development.
- Public-private partnerships to increase access to technology in high-need schools are encouraged.
- Funds can be used for a variety of purposes, including distance learning for elementary and secondary schools and to improve communication and promote family and parent involvement in education.
- The Department of Education will conduct a national study of the effects of technology on student achievement.

¹⁸ *Elementary and Secondary Education Act as amended by No Child Left Behind: Title II, Part D*