

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 28, 1999
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 28, 1999
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 15, 1999

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—1999–2000 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1376

Introduced by Assembly Member Reyes

February 26, 1999

An act to add Chapter 8.6 (commencing with Section 52270) to Part 28 of the Education Code, relating to education technology.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1376, as amended, Reyes. Education technology: Grant Program for Technology Support for Small Rural School Districts.

Existing law, the Digital High School Education Technology Grant Act of 1997, provides one-time installation grants and ongoing technology support and staff training grants to school districts and county offices of education for projects at high schools.

Existing law establishes the California Technology Assistance Project to administer a regionalized network of technical assistance to schools and school districts on the implementation of education technology. The California Technology Assistance Project is composed of regional consortia that work collaboratively with school districts and county offices of education in order to meet locally defined

technology-based needs, as identified in the certified technology plans for their client school districts. Existing law requires the State Board of Education to award grants to fund a school district or county office of education in each region of the California Technology Assistance Project to act as the lead agency to administer the services of that region.

This bill would establish the Grant Program for Technology Support for Small Rural School Districts to support the establishment of consortia of small rural districts with documented pupil and technological needs. School districts eligible to participate in a consortium would be those that have an up-to-date technology use plan and have a pupil population of not more than 10,000, at least 50% of which qualifies for the national free-lunch program and whose average achievement in reading or mathematics, or both, falls below the 50th percentile on the statewide achievement test. The bill would require grantees to be competitively selected and grants not to exceed \$1,000,000.

The bill would require a consortium that is awarded a grant to (1) establish a planning and implementation council, (2) conduct an annual areawide assessment of needs related to access to hardware and connectivity and the availability of professional development directly related to technology use and integration into the curriculum, technical staff support and training, and existing resources that can support technology planning and implementation in member schools, and (3) develop an annually revised technology use plan based on the annual areawide needs assessment.

The bill would require the State Department of Education to annually evaluate the grant program.

The bill would provide that its provisions would be implemented only if funds are appropriated for these purposes.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 8.6 (commencing with Section
2 52270) is added to Part 28 of the Education Code, to read:
3



1 CHAPTER 8.6. TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT FOR SMALL RURAL
2 SCHOOL DISTRICTS
3

4 52270. (a) There is hereby established the Grant
5 Program for Technology Support for Small Rural School
6 Districts to support the establishment of consortia of small
7 rural districts with documented pupil and technological
8 needs.

9 (b) Up to 10 school districts that are in geographic
10 proximity to one another may form a consortium for
11 purposes of applying to the State Department of
12 Education for a grant under this chapter.

13 (c) In order to participate in a consortium, a school
14 district shall meet the following qualifications:

15 (1) Have a pupil population of not more than 10,000,
16 at least 50 percent of which qualifies for the national
17 free-lunch program.

18 (2) Have a pupil population whose average
19 achievement in reading or mathematics, or both, falls
20 below the 50th percentile on the achievement test
21 administered pursuant to Section 60640.

22 (3) Have an up-to-date technology use plan.

23 (d) The governing board of each school district in a
24 consortium shall enter into a joint powers agreement
25 with the governing boards of the other school districts
26 participating in the consortium.

27 52271. (a) A consortium may submit to the State
28 Department of Education an application for a grant
29 which shall include a proposal on how the consortium
30 plans to accomplish the activities set forth in Section
31 ~~52773~~ 52273.

32 (b) The grantees shall be competitively selected based
33 on the applications submitted.

34 (c) A grant shall not exceed one million dollars
35 (\$1,000,000) and shall be awarded subject to an
36 appropriation being made for purposes of this chapter.

37 (d) The renewal of grant funding is contingent on the
38 extent to which the evaluation findings made pursuant to
39 the evaluation required by Section 52274 justifies the
40 continuation or expansion of the program.

1 52272. (a) A consortium shall match the amount of a
2 grant awarded pursuant to this chapter on a one-to-one
3 basis.

4 (b) Each school district participating in the
5 consortium shall contribute to the match amount
6 required of the consortium its proportionate share based
7 on the size of its pupil population in relation to the pupil
8 populations, based on the California Basic Education
9 Data System, of the other school districts participating in
10 the consortium.

11 52273. A consortium that is awarded a grant pursuant
12 to this chapter shall do all of the following:

13 (a) Establish a planning and implementation council
14 ~~consisting of a school district administrator, a schoolsite~~
15 ~~administrator, a teacher, and a community member~~
16 ~~representing each school district participating in the~~
17 ~~consortium whose size and membership will be outlined~~
18 ~~in the joint powers agreement established among~~
19 ~~consortium members pursuant to subdivision (d) of~~
20 ~~Section 52270.~~ *representing each school district*
21 *participating in the consortium whose size and*
22 *membership will be outlined in the joint powers*
23 *agreement entered into by the consortium members*
24 *pursuant to subdivision (d) of Section 52270.*

25 (b) Conduct an annual areawide assessment of needs
26 related to access to hardware and access to connectivity
27 and the availability of all of the following:

28 (1) Professional development directly related to
29 technology use and integration into the curriculum.

30 (2) Technical staff support and training.

31 (3) Resources from the school district, schoolsites, and
32 community that can support technology planning and
33 implementation in the schools under the jurisdiction of
34 the school districts participating in the consortium.

35 (c) Develop an annually revised technology use plan
36 based on the annual areawide needs assessment that
37 describes how technology will be accessed and used by
38 teachers and pupils in each of the schoolsites served by
39 the consortium. The plan shall include, but not be limited
40 to, the following:



- 1 (1) Annual documentation of technological needs,
2 pupil performance, and teacher and administrator staff
3 development that will be addressed in the plan.
- 4 (2) Provision for ongoing technical support and
5 maintenance of equipment and networks.
- 6 (3) Documentation of how the planned technology
7 will address the documented technological needs, pupil
8 performance, and teacher staff development needs
9 related to the effective use of technology to meet pupil
10 performance needs.
- 11 (4) How improvement in pupil performance and
12 change in teaching through the use of technology will be
13 measured.
- 14 (5) A budget that indicates how the consortium plans
15 to match the state support for its operation.
- 16 (6) How the consortium plans to collaboratively
17 procure outside resources needed to assist in the
18 following:
 - 19 (A) School district and school technology use
20 planning.
 - 21 (B) Securing information about the preparation of
22 state, federal, and private grants.
 - 23 (C) Establish partnerships with business and industry.
 - 24 (D) Share resources among the school districts
25 participating in the consortium.
 - 26 (E) Obtain an independent evaluation of the
27 educational costs and benefits of the consortium.
 - 28 (F) Assess improvement in teaching and learning
29 related to consortium initiatives.
 - 30 (G) Establish consortiumwide telecommunications
31 networking.
 - 32 (H) Disseminate consortium accomplishments to the
33 community and the Legislature.
 - 34 (I) Increasing the potential of the consortium to
35 procure outside support.
 - 36 (J) Establish a state representative that will
37 participate in state level educational technology
38 committees, councils, boards, and commissions involved
39 in establishing educational technology initiatives.



1 52274. The State Department of Education shall
2 annually evaluate the grant program to determine the
3 extent to which it meets the requirements of this chapter
4 and is implemented across the state, leverages local
5 resources to match with state support, increases access
6 and use of technology to improve learning in
7 economically disadvantaged small school districts, and
8 contributes to statewide pupil performance.
9 52275. This chapter shall be implemented only if
10 funds are appropriated for purposes of this chapter.

