

SENATE BILL NO. 622

BY SENATORS APPEL AND THOMPSON

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 17:3921.2, relative to educational technology; to require the state Department
3 of Education to develop and implement a statewide educational technology plan; to
4 provide for plan components; to provide for the duties and responsibilities of the
5 Department of Education, the state superintendent of education, public schools and
6 school systems, and the Board of Regents; to provide for evaluations, assessments,
7 and reporting; and to provide for related matters.

8 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

9 Section 1. R.S. 17:3921.2 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

10 **§3921.2. Statewide Educational Technology Plan**

11 **A. The state Department of Education shall develop and implement a**
12 **statewide educational technology plan that ensures that every public elementary**
13 **and secondary school and classroom has the infrastructure and capacity**
14 **necessary to provide a high-quality, digital instructional environment that**
15 **maximizes the integration of technology into the classroom and enhances and**
16 **improves student engagement and learning.**

17 **B. The plan shall do all of the following:**

18 **(1) Establish recommended standards for devices, Internet bandwidth,**
19 **software applications, and local network capacity.**

20 **(2) Establish clear short-term and long-term goals and standards for**
21 **school technology readiness and develop a realistic strategy, timeline, and cost**
22 **estimates to meet both minimum and optimal standards.**

23 **(3) Ensure that every classroom has reliable, high-speed, wireless,**
24 **broadband Internet access and connectivity for computers, white boards, smart**
25 **boards, and other interactive devices.**

26 **(4) Consider the technology needs of high poverty and rural areas.**

27 **(5) Identify and utilize all available Internet bandwidth assets provided**

1 through a request for proposal process through which both public and private
2 entities shall be considered.

3 (6) Provide for the development and implementation of a strategy to
4 provide training and ongoing professional development to ensure that teachers
5 and other school level staff have the skills necessary to effectively and efficiently
6 utilize the technology infrastructure, software, data management, and online
7 resources.

8 (7) Require every school and school system to develop and implement
9 an Internet safety policy that protects students from harmful materials and
10 prevents unauthorized access to content and resources. The policy shall comply
11 with all state and federal student laws, including the Family Educational Rights
12 Privacy Act of 1974 and the Children's Internet Protection Act of 2000.

13 C. In developing the plan, the department shall do both of the following:

14 (1) Conduct a technology needs assessment of all schools and school
15 systems, including an inventory of existing hardware and software, internal and
16 external networks, servers, workstations, and operating systems.

17 (2) Evaluate the current technology readiness status of every public
18 elementary and secondary school, including hardware, software, and
19 broadband capacity.

20 D. The state superintendent of education shall do all of the following:

21 (1) Identify the costs for upgrading existing software and equipment,
22 acquiring new software and equipment, ongoing maintenance, and technical
23 support and develop a funding strategy, including state contracts to provide for
24 cost savings wherever possible.

25 (2) Identify and develop funding mechanisms to support implementation
26 of the plan.

27 (3) Inform schools and school systems of available technology funding
28 sources and applicable timelines and deadlines and encourage local schools and
29 school systems to maximize the use of existing local, state, and federal funding
30 sources for technology purposes.

1 (4) Conduct and publish a technology readiness assessment of each
2 public school twice a year including a review of devices, Internet bandwidth,
3 school and school system expenditures on technology, and use of state
4 technology contracts.

5 (5) Provide ongoing guidance and technical assistance to schools and
6 school systems.

7 (6) Evaluate the statewide school technology plan and update as often
8 as necessary, but not less than once per year, to keep current with technological
9 advances.

10 E. The Board of Regents shall collaborate and cooperate with the state
11 Department of Education to develop policies and procedures to allow public
12 elementary and secondary schools access to all available Internet assets
13 provided through a request for proposal process through which both public and
14 private entities shall be considered.

15 F. The state Department of Education shall submit a written report to
16 the Senate Committee on Education and the House Committee on Education,
17 not later than January fifteenth of each year, regarding implementation of the
18 statewide education technology plan and the status of technology readiness of
19 each public school and school system.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____