

HOUSE No. 514

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Marie P. St. Fleur

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the passage of the accompanying bill:

An Act to Create 21st Century Classrooms.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Marie P. St. Fleur	5th Suffolk
Willie Mae Allen	6th Suffolk
Gloria L. Fox	7th Suffolk
Kay Khan	11th Middlesex
Elizabeth A. Malia	11th Suffolk

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Nine

AN ACT TO CREATE 21ST CENTURY CLASSROOMS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 **SECTION 1.** There is hereby established on the books of the commonwealth a separate fund to
2 be known as the Commonwealth 21st Century Classroom Fund, hereinafter referred to as the
3 fund. Notwithstanding any special law or rule to the contrary, not less than 20 percent of eligible
4 education technology funding from the federal recovery act, so called, shall be deposited in the
5 fund. The state treasurer shall hold amounts in the fund as trustee for the purposes set forth in
6 this section and shall disburse funds from time to time at the request of the secretary of
7 education, hereinafter referred as the secretary.

8 **SECTION 2.** The fund shall consist of certain funds dedicated in section 1 and by other sources
9 to increase student achievement through the use of instructional technology in the classroom.

10 **SECTION 3.** The fund must be used to create 21st century classrooms that enable the full
11 integration of appropriate learning technologies into teaching and learning for the State's
12 elementary and secondary school students. The fund must be managed and governed in a manner
13 that provides for the financially sustainable support, use and integration of learning technology in
14 Massachusetts schools as determined by the Legislature.

15 **SECTION 4.** The use of the funds must be based on a state learning technology plan developed
16 annually by the secretary. The annual learning technology plan must be designed to achieve the
17 goals of preparing students for a future economy that will rely heavily on technology and
18 innovation, transforming Massachusetts into the premier state for utilizing learning technology in
19 public education.

20 The plan recommended annually by the secretary and the Advisory Board for the 21st Century
21 Classroom Fund shall include, but is not limited to the following:

- 22 A. The appropriate structure, governance and oversight of the fund;
- 23 B. The current use of learning technology in classrooms in the State;
- 24 C. The current readiness of faculty to teach using technology;

- 25 D. The professional development needed to integrate technology into classroom
26 teaching;
- 27 E. Assessment of the strategy and goals for improving and equalizing access to and the
28 use of learning technology in all schools;
- 29 F. Strategies that coordinate public education learning technology with initiatives and
30 resources of Massachusetts postsecondary education institutions;
- 31 G. Data tracking and assessment of the progress of implementing the goals of the fund
32 and the learning technology plan.
33

34 **SECTION 5.** Prior to December 15th of each year, the secretary shall provide to the Governor,
35 the House and Senate Committees on Ways and Means and the Joint Committee on Education, a
36 recommended funding level for implementing the annual learning technology plan within the
37 framework of section 2 of Chapter 70 of the general laws as amended by this act.

38 **SECTION 6.** An Advisory Board for the 21st Century Classroom Fund is hereby established to
39 advise the secretary and the Legislature on matters related to the development of policies for the
40 effective acquisition and use of learning technology.

- 41 1. In the appointment of public members to the advisory board the Governor, President of
42 the Senate and Speaker of the House shall give proper consideration to members with
43 experience or special knowledge in one or more of the following areas: education,
44 business or economic development, technology, finance, library services and
45 postsecondary education; and to achieving statewide geographical representation, cultural
46 equity and gender equity. The Governor, Senate President and Speaker of the House shall
47 appoint the advisory board consisting of 6 voting members as follows:
- 48 a. Four public members, 2 of whom shall be appointed by the Governor, 1 of whom
49 shall be appointed by the Senate President and 1 of whom shall be appointed by
50 the Speaker of the House;
- 51 b. One member who is a member of the Board of Elementary and Secondary
52 Education, appointed by the chairperson of the Board of Elementary and
53 Secondary Education;
- 54 c. One member representing public postsecondary educational institutions in the
55 State who is employed by a public postsecondary educational institution in the
56 State, appointed by the Governor;
- 57 2. The advisory board shall choose annually one of its members to serve as chair.
- 58 3. In appointing the initial public members to the advisory board, the Governor, President of
59 Senate and Speaker of the House shall give proper consideration to the report of the
60 Special Commission on Educational Technology, pursuant to Chapter 300 of the Act of
61 2002, so that there may be continuity of policy development.
- 62 4. The advisory board shall meet at least three times each year.
- 63 5. Each member of the advisory board is entitled to one vote. A majority of voting members
64 of the advisory board constitutes a quorum for the transaction of any official business.
- 65 6. The terms of the members of the advisory board are for 3 years.
- 66 7. In the case that a member leaves the advisory board, the respective appointing authority
67 shall appoint a new member to serve out the remainder of the term.
- 68 8. The secretary shall provide appropriate staff support to the advisory board.

69 **SECTION 7.** The powers and duties of the advisory board include the following:

- 70 1. The Advisory Board shall advise the secretary in developing an annual learning
71 technology plan, which shall provide the basis for annual allocation of funds by the
72 Legislature from the fund.
- 73 2. To measure the effectiveness of the learning technology plan, the advisory board may
74 establish standards and methods of measuring progress in the levels of academic
75 achievement for students who participate in the learning technology plan. The advisory
76 board may also establish standards and methods of measuring progress in the professional
77 development of teachers who participate in the learning technology program, as well as
78 the impact of the learning technology plan on parents, lifelong learners and the economic
79 impact on communities across the State. The advisory board may assess the impacts of
80 the learning technology plan according to these standards and measurements.
- 81 3. As part of its assessment role, the advisory board may also consider relevant strategic
82 issues necessary to develop, maintain and support the achievement of the goals of the
83 learning technology plan.