



Education Technology

Education Technology & ESEA: Neither the House nor the Senate ESEA bills included a program to reauthorize Title II Part D (Enhancing Education through Technology, or EETT). Fortunately, the Senate HELP Committee adopted S 1178 (the ATTAIN Act), which would protect and maintain a dedicated education technology program within ESEA. While the definitions of education technology and professional development within the House ESEA bills provide enough flexibility for schools to exercise EETT-like programming, the realities of providing a 21st century education require a dedicated, sustained investment in education technology supports from the federal level. EETT was once again zero-funded in FY12 and is likely to be zero-funded in FY13.

E-Rate: AASA/AESA led efforts to oppose an FCC proposal that would use E-Rate resources to administer a Digital Literacy Pilot. While we support digital literacy programs, the consistent over-subscription of E-Rate and the fact that E-Rate has yet to fully realize its initial mission means that the focus of the E-Rate program should remain solely on E-Rate activities. Last fall, AASA/AESA led efforts to oppose the use of E-Rate funds to fund the project. Earlier this spring, AASA/AESA spear-headed a rule-making response campaign where nearly all (48 of 53) of the received comments were AASA/AESA-generated. Those responses delivered a clear message to the FCC: hands off of E-Rate! As of today, the digital literacy pilot has lost its momentum.

E-Learning Caucus: Earlier this summer, the House launched its brand new E-Learning Caucus. While their initial discussions are related to virtual learning, the advocacy team has met with the staff of the caucus to reiterate the importance of the underlying education technology issues, including E-Rate funding, connectivity, the need for an EETT-like program, and the diversity e-learning in general.

Talking Points:

- Urge your Representative to join the E-Learning Caucus. To join, have their education/technology staffer reach out to the offices of Rep. Noem (R-SD) or Rep. Polis (D-CO).
- Talk to your Representatives and Senators about the importance of the E-Rate program and how much more you could accomplish if there was no longer a limitation on E-Rate funding to \$2.25 billion. Ask them to support any efforts to increase the E-Rate funding to meet the yearly demand.
- Urge your Senators to cosponsor S 297, which would permanently exempt the Universal Service Fund (and E-Rate) from the Anti-Deficiency Act. This exemption would provide the needed assurance to local school districts that E-Rate funding would not, once again, be disrupted.
- Urge your Senators and Representatives to support the ATTAIN Act (S 1178/HR 3614), which would protect and maintain a dedicated education technology program within ESEA. Dedicated, sustained investment in education technology supports state and local efforts already underway to expand access to rigorous courses through online learning, to use education data to guide instruction and decision making, and to support teachers

and administrators in implementing newly adopted college and career ready standards and assessments are all at grave risk.