

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.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_