

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 675 Session of
2001

INTRODUCED BY KIRKLAND, BEBKO-JONES, CRUZ, BELFANTI, COSTA,
DeWEESE, GRUCELA, HARHAI, HENNESSEY, HERMAN, HORSEY, JOSEPHS,
LAUGHLIN, PRESTON, ROONEY, THOMAS, VEON, YOUNGBLOOD, McCALL,
READSHAW, STURLA, TIGUE AND WASHINGTON, FEBRUARY 13, 2001

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, FEBRUARY 13, 2001

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), entitled "An
2 act relating to the public school system, including certain
3 provisions applicable as well to private and parochial
4 schools; amending, revising, consolidating and changing the
5 laws relating thereto," providing for technology training for
6 professional employees; and making an appropriation.

7 Section 1. The act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known
8 as the Public School Code of 1949, is amended by adding an
9 article to read:

10 ARTICLE XII-A.

11 TECHNOLOGY TRAINING FOR PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEES.

12 Section 1201-A. Establishment of Program.--There is hereby
13 established in the Department of Education the Technology
14 Training for Professional Employees Program. The program shall
15 provide grants to school districts and charter schools to help
16 build technology skills of professional employees, as defined by
17 section 1101 throughout Pennsylvania. The program shall
18 emphasize teaching technology skills to professional employees of
19 school districts and charter schools in Pennsylvania that will

1 assist them in providing an enhanced learning environment for
2 children.

3 Section 1202-A. Eligibility Requirements.--(a) Any school
4 district receiving basic education funding through the General
5 Appropriation Act of the prior fiscal year or charter school
6 approved by the Department of Education in this Commonwealth
7 shall be eligible, upon application, to receive Technology
8 Training for Professional Employees Program.

9 (b) The Department of Education shall establish an annual
10 application procedure through which eligible school districts or
11 charter schools may apply on an annual basis for grants
12 established under this article.

13 (c) Any eligible school district or charter school may
14 reapply for Technology Training for Professional Employees
15 program grants each fiscal year.

16 Section 1203-A. Program Requirements.--(a) Eligible school
17 districts and charter schools shall apply for grants as
18 prescribed by the application procedure established by the
19 Department of Education. The application will contain the
20 following:

21 (1) A proposal that explains how the school district or
22 charter school will utilize funding received from the Technology
23 Training for Professional Employees Program.

24 (2) Identification of professional employees with the
25 greatest need for enhancement of technology skills.

26 (3) Methods of current technology skills training or
27 enhancement for professional employees.

28 (4) Plan for integration of current methods of technology
29 skills training for professional employees.

30 (5) A multi-year plan that shows how the school district or

charter school will assume full financial and programmatic responsibility for the Technology Training for Professional Employees program at the conclusion of the grant period.

(6) The estimated budget for each specific program activity.

Section 1204-A. Criteria for Awarding Grants.--Grants established and funded under this article shall be awarded to eligible school districts or charter schools complying with the application procedure and program requirements according to the formula established under the Federal Schools and Libraries Universal Service Fund, popularly known as the "E-Rate," created as part of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-104, 110 Stat. 56).

Section 1205-A. Technical Assistance and Monitoring.--The Department of Education shall provide technical assistance and establish methods to ensure the quality of the program receiving a grant, including program monitoring and onsite visitation.

Section 1206-A. Reports.--(a) A school district or charter school participating in the Technology Training for Professional Employees program shall provide program and fiscal reports as required by the Department of Education.

(b) The Department of Education shall submit a report on the status of the Technology Training for Professional Employees program by December 31 of each year to the chairman and the minority chairman of the Education Committee of the Senate and the chairman and the minority chairman of the Education Committee of the House of Representatives.

Section 1207-A. Funding.--For fiscal year 2001-2002, the sum of \$10,000,000 is hereby appropriated to the Technology Training for Professional Employees Program, as established by this act. The General Assembly shall annually include in the appropriation

1 to the Department of Education in the General Appropriation Act
2 an appropriation from the General Fund in an amount sufficient
3 to make grants pursuant to this act.

4 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.