



ISTE's 2007 U.S. Public Policy Principles and Federal & State Objectives

Approved by the ISTE Board of Directors, February 2007

ISTE's public policy principles and federal and state objectives are founded upon our members' uncompromising commitment to provide students the technology and information skills and tools necessary for success in the 21st century. ISTE strongly believes that the effective use of technology can drive academic success and help prepare all learners to be model citizens. Properly integrating modern digital tools and content into the learning environment by trained administrators and teachers will lead to high achieving citizens equipped to succeed in our evolving global society.

ISTE's public policy objectives for 2007 are based on the following core principles:

1. Technology is an essential element of teaching, learning, and instructional design in effective, engaging 21st-century learning systems.
2. Fluency with technology must be embedded in the learning process and is a prerequisite for attaining necessary 21st-century skills to ensure academic success and workforce preparedness.
3. Pre-service and sustained in-service professional development of teachers and administrators must include instruction on integrating technology into the learning process.
4. The success of data collection, analysis, and real-time assessment is enhanced through technology.
5. Research at the national level on teaching techniques and instructional design must be increased.
6. Application of research findings and best practices in educational technology must become part of the education system.
7. Students must have robust Internet and network access no matter where they live and no matter their socio-economic circumstances.

Federal Policy Objectives

In addition to the regular budget and appropriations process, existing U.S. laws such as the No Child Left Behind Act, the Higher Education Act and the 1996 Telecommunications Act will be debated during the 110th Congress. Each will have a critical impact on implementing technology in the learning environment. Additionally, legislation focusing on competitiveness will be a high priority for both Congress and the Administration. Cyber security, intellectual property, and "Digital Divide" issues may also see movement in Congress this year.

Budget and Appropriations

ISTE will take a lead role in building support for increasing annual appropriations for education technology programs. Recognizing the fiscal constraints of the current federal budget environment, ISTE will focus on elevating funding for programs that promote the effective use of technology in teaching, learning, and administration such as the Enhancing Education Through Technology (EETT) program.

No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) Reauthorization

The next iteration of our nation's K-12 law must help transform U.S. elementary and secondary