

Enhancing Education Through Technology and No Child Left Behind

President Bush and Congress have declared their commitment to transforming the Federal role in education so that "No Child is Left Behind." At the heart of this effort is a commitment to focus on students, equip teachers, empower parents, and inform decision makers to ensure every child receives a quality education. The No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 advances this commitment by providing a number of exciting reforms, tools and programs, many of which are reliant on the appropriate and effective use of technology.

Experts and practitioners have all agreed on the importance not just of increasing technological capacity within schools, but also of integrating it with the curriculum. The No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 reflects this commitment in several exciting ways:

- 1. Education programs as technology opportunities:** Along with targeted funding for technology, many of the education programs, such as Reading First, allow recipients to purchase technology resources to accomplish the program's goals.
- 2. Commitment to professional development:** A myriad of programs offer funds for professional development to ensure that teachers understand how to integrate appropriate technology tools effectively with their curriculum. Additional resources are made available for teacher preparation initiatives.
- 3. Expanded uses of funds:** Grant recipients may also use funds for distance learning, data decision support systems, and even to form public/private partnerships that support activities such as interest-free loans.

4. Evidenced-Based Education: Throughout No Child Left Behind is a commitment to funding strategies that have been proven to work, based on scientifically based research. A commitment to researching what works along with measuring the impact technology has on instruction and learning is evidenced by the focus placed on state evaluations along with a national longitudinal study.

Information on all of the programs provided by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 can be found at <http://www.ed.gov/nclb/>