

(8) CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR TEACHERS AND ADMINISTRATORS REQUIRES CONSTANT ACCESS TO THE LATEST ADVANCEMENTS IN TECHNOLOGY TO KEEP TEACHERS AND ADMINISTRATORS EXCITED AND KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT THE UNFOLDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE CLASSROOM; AND

(9) THE INCREASING USE OF NEW TECHNOLOGIES AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS IN BUSINESS HAS INCREASED THE GAP BETWEEN SCHOOLING AND WORKFORCE PREPARATION.

7-703.

IT IS THE PURPOSE OF THIS ACT:

~~(1) TO PROMOTE EQUAL ACCESS FOR ALL STUDENTS TO EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH ADVANCES IN TECHNOLOGY TO ACHIEVE THE AMBITIOUS NATIONAL EDUCATION GOALS BY THE YEAR 2000;~~

~~(2) TO SUPPORT LOCAL EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY CONSORTIA TO ENABLE SUCH CONSORTIA TO PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, STAFF DEVELOPMENT, AND INFORMATION AND RESOURCE DISSEMINATION TO HELP THE STATE, LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS, AND TEACHERS SUCCESSFULLY INTEGRATE TECHNOLOGY INTO KINDERGARTEN THROUGH 12TH GRADE CLASSROOMS;~~

~~(3) TO DEVELOP EDUCATIONAL AND INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAMMING IN CRITICAL SUBJECT AREAS THAT WILL ADDRESS THE NATIONAL EDUCATION GOALS;~~

~~(4) (1) TO OFFER INCENTIVES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR CREATIVE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS WITHIN THE MARKETPLACE TO DEVELOP STATE-OF-THE-ART EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY PRODUCTS THAT PROMOTE THE USE OF ADVANCED TECHNOLOGIES IN THE CLASSROOM; AND~~

~~(5) (2) TO AVOID DUPLICATION AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF INCOMPATIBLE SYSTEMS BY STRENGTHENING AND BUILDING UPON EXISTING TELECOMMUNICATIONS INFRASTRUCTURE DEDICATED TO EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES.~~

7-704.

THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT ~~SHALL~~ MAY:

(1) SUPPORT DEVELOPMENT OF CURRICULUM-BASED LEARNING RESOURCES USING STATE-OF-THE-ART TECHNOLOGIES AND TECHNIQUES DESIGNED TO INCREASE THE ACHIEVEMENT LEVELS OF ALL STUDENTS IN ALL SUBJECT AREAS;

(2) SUPPORT DEVELOPMENT OF LONG-TERM COMPREHENSIVE INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAMMING AND ASSOCIATED SUPPORT RESOURCES THAT ENSURE MAXIMUM ACCESS BY ALL EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS; AND