

(3) ENSURE THAT HIGH PERFORMANCE COMPUTING AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS NETWORKS (OR INFORMATION HIGHWAYS) ARE DEVELOPED WITH CONSIDERATION TO THE NEEDS OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION TO FACILITATE EDUCATIONAL USES, TO PROVIDE ACCESS TO CLASSROOMS AND LIBRARIES IN ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS, AND TO IMPROVE STUDENT LEARNING; AND

(4) ASSESS THE EFFECTIVENESS OF TECHNOLOGY IN EDUCATION PROGRAMS.

7-709.

(A) THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT ~~SHALL~~ MAY AWARD GRANTS TO OR ENTER INTO CONTRACTS WITH ELIGIBLE CONSORTIA FOR RESEARCH PROJECTS INTENDED TO DEVELOP EDUCATIONAL APPLICATIONS USING ADVANCED TECHNOLOGIES.

(B) (1) TO OBTAIN A GRANT OR A CONTRACT UNDER THIS SECTION, AN ELIGIBLE CONSORTIA SHALL SUBMIT TO THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT AN APPLICATION AT THE TIME AND IN THE FORM THAT THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT REQUIRES.

(2) THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT SHALL REQUIRE AN APPLICATION SUBMITTED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION CLEARLY TO DEFINE:

(I) THE SCOPE AND CONTENT OF THE SUBJECT MATTER OF THE RESEARCH; AND

(II) THE RELEVANCE OF THE ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY TO THE CONTENT FOR PURPOSES OF IMPROVING BOTH THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM AND THE STATE'S ECONOMIC COMPETITIVENESS.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That it is the intent of the General Assembly that funding for the provisions of this Act shall be provided solely from:

(1) Contributions from sources other than the State, including but not limited to federal grants, business and industry, local government, associations, and individuals; and

(2) Specifically identified discretionary amounts in the Governor's budget, other than any increase to the current expense formula.

SECTION 2. 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 1994.

Approved May 26, 1994.