

~~(6) in support of the overall national technology policy, the State Department of Education and the Department of Economic and Employment Development must assume a vital leadership and coordinating role in providing the State's vision and strategy to infuse advanced technology throughout all educational programs;~~

~~(7) State support can ease the burden at the local level by enabling the acquisition of advanced technology, teacher training and support, and market development for new educational products;~~

~~(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;~~

~~(9) the increasing use of new technologies and telecommunications systems in business has increased the gap between schooling and workforce preparation; and~~

~~(10) public private partnerships involved in the development and use of new technologies for education should be encouraged, assisted, and fostered by the State of Maryland.~~

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article - Education

SUBTITLE 7. TECHNOLOGY FOR EDUCATION

7-701.

(A) IN THIS SUBTITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.

(B) "ELIGIBLE CONSORTIUM" MEANS PUBLIC OR PRIVATE NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION.

(C) "INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAMMING" MEANS THE FULL RANGE OF AUDIO AND VIDEO TEXT, GRAPHICS, OR ADDITIONAL STATE-OF-THE-ART COMMUNICATIONS DISTRIBUTED THROUGH INTERACTIVE, COMMAND AND CONTROL, OR PASSIVE METHODS FOR THE PURPOSE OF EDUCATION AND INSTRUCTION.

(D) "LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY" HAS THE MEANING STATED IN THE FEDERAL ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION ACT OF 1965, 20 U.S.C. § 2891(12).

(E) "STUDENTS" MEANS STUDENTS FROM A BROAD RANGE OF BACKGROUNDS AND CIRCUMSTANCES, INCLUDING:

(1) DISADVANTAGED STUDENTS;