

(III) THE LACK OF APPROPRIATE ELECTRICAL AND TELEPHONE CONNECTIONS IN THE CLASSROOM; AND

(IV) THE LIMITED AVAILABILITY OF TECHNOLOGY-ENHANCED CURRICULUM, STAFF DEVELOPMENT, AND ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT RESOURCES AND SERVICES IN THE EDUCATIONAL MARKETPLACE;

(4) ADVANCEMENTS IN TECHNOLOGY OFFER NEW AND INTERESTING POSSIBILITIES TO PROMOTE NEW PARTNERSHIPS AMONG TEACHERS, STUDENTS, PARENTS, COMMUNITIES, AND INDUSTRY IN THE QUEST FOR KNOWLEDGE AND THE PROCESS FOR LEARNING;

(5) THE USE OF TECHNOLOGY WILL CULTIVATE AND MAINTAIN A TECHNOLOGICALLY LITERATE CITIZENRY AND INTERNATIONALLY COMPETITIVE WORKFORCE WHEN USED AS AN ESSENTIAL TOOL IN THE LEARNING PROCESS;

(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; 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;~~