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Subject: Status Summary - State Board Technology Advisory Committee

Kathy,

Attached is a status summary of the State Board Technology Advisory Committee process. As we discussed Monday, work in this area is on-going and final recommendations from both Phase I and II of the effort are to be finalized in the spring of 2005. Let me know if you have additional questions or concerns.

<<Technology advisory committee process summary.doc>>

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Department and State Board of Education
Technology Advisory Committee

Status Summary

Utilizing Educational Technology to Improve Instruction

Background

During the '03-'04 school year, the Iowa Department of Education, under the direction of the State Board of Education, convened a Technology Advisory Committee to make recommendations about policies that would facilitate the effective implementation of technology in Iowa schools. The Committee is composed of representatives from local school districts, area education agencies, community colleges, accredited nonpublic schools, education organizations and the State Board of Education. It includes teachers, administrators and those with expertise in instructional technology. Support for the initial work of the Committee was provided by Learning Points Associates, an affiliate of the North Central Regional Educational Laboratory (NCREL), which provides research and development in the area of technology integration.

Technology Advisory Committee – Phase I

With assistance from Learning Points, the Technology Advisory Committee examined research and best practices related to the use of technology in the classroom. Based on this research, the committee developed a set of guiding principles (attached) to act as the basis of their policy review and recommendations. The committee reviewed current Iowa Code sections and Administrative Rules that relate to educational technology and the use of technology to improve instruction. After this initial phase of work, it was determined that further information was needed in order to better assist in making policy recommendations concerning educational technology.

Technology Advisory Committee – Phase II

As the Technology Advisory Committee discussed policies related to educational technology, it became apparent that additional information was needed. The following questions were identified by a subcommittee of the Advisory Committee and the Department is in the process of collecting the information:

1. What is the current level of technology (hardware, software) and connectivity in Iowa public schools? What is the current cost of ownership for this installed base? What are schools doing to maintain the funding stream necessary for successful technology implementation? What evidence is there that access is equitable across the state? What level of technology and access exists for Iowa students outside the school facility?
2. What is the current level of utilization of advanced technology by Iowa teachers in the improvement of student academic achievement? How are the Iowa Teaching Standards being used to provide a plan for improving instruction through the use of technology?
3. How are districts promoting the effective integration of technology into the teaching and learning process? How are core curriculums being adapted to address 21st Century Workforce skill development that would require deep integration?
4. What evidence is there that districts support the improvement of instructional practices through the use of technology? What effect do these instructional practices have on student learning?
5. What are districts doing to provide sustained support of teachers, principals and other administrators in effective use of technology? How is technology being used to support the Iowa professional development model?
6. What are districts using to evaluate the impact and effectiveness of their technology and learning strategies in improving student learning?

Next Steps

When the Department has collected the additional information identified by the Committee subgroup and the Committee has completed its work, a work session will be scheduled for the Department and State Board to discuss recommendations related to current policies and new policies that may be needed in order to facilitate the use of technology in the classroom. It is anticipated that a report on this work will be completed during the spring of 2005.

Educational technology, when used appropriately, empowers educators to provide enhanced learning opportunities for their students. In the hands of a talented teacher, technology can be used to help students develop higher order thinking skills; it can be used as the springboard to a real-world context for student learning. When used appropriately, technology can engage and motivate students, it can help educators meet the individual learning needs of students; it can support innovations that improve student performance. As the possibilities for using technology expand, we must continuously review and revise our statewide policy framework and establish procedures to ensure that technology enhances and promotes student learning.

**Department and State Board of Education
Technology Advisory Committee
Guiding Principles**

1. **LEADERSHIP** -- The impact of technology on student learning is dependent on educational leadership at all levels of the system.

2. **QUALITY TEACHING / INSTRUCTION** – Quality teachers who can effectively use educational technology to improve teaching and engage the learner are essential for improving student achievement. A quality teacher uses educational technology in a manner that is appropriate for the age and developmental needs of the students.

3. **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT** – It is critical that preservice training and professional development address the effective use of technology for instruction.

4. **CURRICULUM / ASSESSMENT** – Students' technology skills should be integrated into the curriculum and assessed through the demonstration of learning within content areas.

5. **EQUITABLE ACCESS** – *All* Iowa students should have equitable access to education opportunities offered via the use of technology/telecommunications.

6. **EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY PLANNING** – Planning, budgeting and upgrade decisions about technology should be based on the appropriate and effective use of technology to improve instruction