



March 12, 2025

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Assembly Committee on Education
1020 N Street, Room 1100
Sacramento, California 95814

Support AB 903: Education Technology Empowerment Act

Dear Chair Al Muratsuchi, Vice Chair Josh Hoover, and Committee Members Dawn Addis, David Alvarez, Mia Bonta, Leticia Castillo, Robert Garcia, Josh Lowenthal, and Dr. Darshana Patel:

On behalf of the California Emerging Technology Fund (CETF), we are writing to urge you to support the **Education Technology Empowerment Act (AB 903)** authored by Assemblymembers Anamarie Ávila Farías and José Luis Solache Jr. which will have no fiscal impact on the General Fund. The Legislature and Administration already have provided sufficient funding to implement AB903 within existing allocated resources and statutory requirements.

The global pandemic illuminated the Digital Divide in K-12 education, exposing deep disparities that disproportionately affect students attending public schools in underserved communities. These historical disparities hinder equitable access to educational opportunities, limiting student success and long-term economic prosperity. The Digital Divide is a significant factor contributing to the Achievement Gap.

AB 903 declares that it is the policy of the State of California to harness the power of computing and Internet technologies to support acceleration of student academic performance, with special attention to Title I and high-need Districts and underperforming Schools in low-income neighborhoods. AB 903 delineates 10 Principles for Best Practices that will form the foundation of an initiative that will be useful for all Districts and Schools. It engages the State Board of Education (SBE), in consultations with the California Department of Education (CDE) and California Collaborative for Education Excellence (CCEE) to compile and publish Best Practices to harness the power of technology to support student academic success and accelerate student academic achievement, including the development of a model policy for incorporation into Local Control Accountability Plans (LCAPs). It also provides for CDE to conduct on their website and publish updates biannually. AB903 also directs CDE to conduct informational webinars for Districts and County Offices of Education and collect certain data through existing processes and post an Annual Report to assess the impact of this bill on driving student achievement.

The Education Technology Empowerment Act also builds upon the expertise of education experts and philanthropy to guide and support implementation of the initiative by establishing an Advisory Committee to SBE that will include at least the following leadership organizations: California School Boards Association (CSBA); Association of California School Administrators (ACSA); CAAASA (formerly California Association of African American Superintendents); Association of Latino Administrators and Superintendents (ALAS); California Teachers Association (CTA); American Federation of Teachers (AFT); California Collaborative for Education Excellence (CCEE); International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE); CUE (formerly Computer Using Educators); California Emerging Technology Fund (CETF); Families in Schools (FIS); California Parent Teachers Association (CaPTA); Common Sense Media; Silicon Valley Education Foundation (SVEF); and other organizations and philanthropic foundations determined by SBE to be experienced and willing to contribute to harnessing the power of technology to accelerate student academic achievement.

We request your “aye” vote on AB 903 to ensure that California can harness the power of computing and Internet technologies to support the attainment of educational goals and to accelerate improvement in student academic achievement in all Districts and Schools.

For additional information or questions, please contact Kyle O’Ryan, CETF Policy and Communications Director at Kyle.ORYan@CETFund.org.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Sunne Wright McPeak
CETF President and CEO



Kyle O’Ryan
CETF Policy and Communications Director



Senator Richard Polanco
Tres Es. Inc
CETF Legislative Representative



Marvin Pineda
California Advocacy LLC
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