

Assembly Bill No. 307

CHAPTER 313

An act to amend Section 51871.5 of the Education Code, relating to education technology.

[Approved by Governor September 18, 2006. Filed with
Secretary of State September 18, 2006.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 307, Chavez. Education technology: grants: requirements.

Existing law requires the State Department of Education to administer the California Technology Assistance Project to provide a regionalized network of technical assistance to schools and school districts on the implementation of education technology. Existing law requires the department to administer provisions governing education technology and authorizes school districts, county offices of education, and state special schools to apply to the State Board of Education to participate in grant programs related to education technology. Existing law requires a school district to have a current 3-to-5 year education technology plan as a precondition to receiving a technology grant administered by the department, unless this requirement is waived by the board.

This bill would, on or before July 1, 2007, require the Superintendent to develop guidelines and criteria for inclusion in the education technology plan. The bill would require the guidelines and criteria to include a component to educate pupils and teachers on the appropriate and ethical use of information technology in the classroom, Internet safety, avoiding plagiarism, the concept, purpose, and significance of a copyright so that pupils can distinguish between lawful and unlawful online downloading, and the implications of illegal peer-to-peer network file sharing. The bill would exempt a school district that, on July 1, 2008, has a 3-to-5 year education technology plan from compliance with this requirement until that plan expires or is voluntarily replaced, at which time the school district would be subject to the requirement.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 51871.5 of the Education Code is amended to read:

51871.5. (a) It is the intent of the Legislature that education technology planning be accomplished in the most comprehensive manner possible. To that end, the current practice of developing education technology plans for each funding program should be replaced with a

comprehensive local planning process that will enable school districts to apply for grants on an ongoing basis and assist in utilizing available education technology programs.

(b) On or after January 1, 2005, as a precondition to receiving a technology grant administered by the department, a school district shall have a current three- to five-year education technology plan. The state board may waive this requirement if it determines that the applicant school district made a good faith effort to develop a plan, but for reasons beyond its control, the district cannot develop the plan before receipt of the technology grant.

(c) On or before July 1, 2007, the Superintendent shall develop guidelines and criteria for inclusion in the education technology plan required pursuant to subdivision (b). The guidelines and criteria shall include a component to educate pupils and teachers on the appropriate and ethical use of information technology in the classroom, Internet safety, the manner in which to avoid committing plagiarism, the concept, purpose, and significance of a copyright so that pupils are equipped with the skills necessary to distinguish lawful from unlawful online downloading, and the implications of illegal peer-to-peer network file sharing.

A school district that, on July 1, 2008, has a current three-to-five year education technology plan that complies with subdivision (b) is not required to comply with this subdivision until after its plan expires or is voluntarily replaced.

(d) On or after January 1, 2005, the Superintendent shall ensure that each school district has access to technical assistance and an approved online technology plan builder that the department determines is in compliance with state and federal requirements.

(e) The department shall maintain a record of school districts that have a three- to five-year education technology plan and shall make that information available to interested public agencies.