

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 29, 2000

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 16, 2000

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 24, 2000

SENATE BILL

No. 1774

Introduced by Senator Bowen

February 23, 2000

An act to add Section 10910.2, to the Education Code, relating to computer access, and making an appropriation therefor.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1774, as amended, Bowen. Computer access.

Existing law authorizes school districts to organize, promote, and conduct programs of community recreation as well as contribute to the attainment of general educational and recreational objectives for children and adults of the state. Existing law declares that it is in the interest of the people and of the state that there be a general diffusion of knowledge and intelligence through the establishment and operation of public libraries.

This bill would require the State Department of Education to establish a grant program to encourage schools to keep their computer facilities open and available to ~~the public on evenings and weekends~~ *their pupils and their families* and to encourage public libraries *and public access computer technology centers, as defined*, that have Internet access to extend the hours and days during which access is available to the public. The bill would provide grant funds to cover the

additional costs incurred by the schools ~~and~~, libraries, *and public access computer technology centers* as well as provide for the cost of technical assistance at a level determined by the State Department of Education. The bill would require the grant program to establish preferences, as specified. The bill would require that a grant made under the program not exceed \$100,000. The bill would require grantees to hire staff and recruit volunteers with appropriate levels of computer knowledge and expertise and would require a school to implement a program that enlists pupil volunteers to provide technical support as a condition to receiving the grant.

The bill would appropriate an unspecified sum from the General Fund to the State Department of Education, according to a specified schedule, to fund the grant programs.

Vote: $\frac{2}{3}$. Appropriation: yes. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

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

1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of
2 the following:

3 (a) The ability to use a computer and the Internet are
4 becoming critical skills that are necessary for full
5 participation in modern society.

6 (b) The disparate access to computers and the
7 Internet is known as the “digital divide” and is related to
8 an individual’s income, ethnicity, and geographic
9 location. The digital divide disadvantages people by
10 denying them an equal opportunity to educate
11 themselves, avail themselves of economic opportunities,
12 participate in electronic commerce, and access
13 information.

14 (c) A cost-effective way of helping to bridge the digital
15 divide is to provide educational and training
16 opportunities to pupils as well as provide general access
17 to the public through the extended use of schools,
18 libraries, and other public access computer centers.

19 SEC. 2. Section 10910.2 is added to the Education
20 Code, to read:



1 10910.2. (a) The State Department of Education
 2 shall establish a grant program to encourage schools to
 3 keep their computer facilities open and available to ~~the~~
 4 ~~public on evenings and weekends~~ *their pupils and their*
 5 *families*, and to encourage public libraries *and public*
 6 *access computer technology centers* that have Internet
 7 access to extend the hours and days during which access
 8 is available to the public. The grants shall cover the
 9 additional costs, excluding costs for the construction or
 10 lease of the facilities, incurred by a school, *public access*
 11 *computer technology center*, or library as well as provide
 12 for the cost of technical assistance at a level determined
 13 by the State Department of Education. As a condition to
 14 receiving a grant, a school must implement a program
 15 that enlists pupil volunteers to provide technical support.

16 (b) The grant program established pursuant to this
 17 section shall establish preferences for the following:

18 (1) Schools, *public access computer technology*
 19 *centers*, and libraries with substantial local and private
 20 sector support.

21 (2) Schools, *public access computer technology*
 22 *centers*, and libraries located in areas with poor computer
 23 access, such as rural and low-income areas.

24 (c) Grantees shall hire staff and recruit volunteers
 25 with appropriate levels of computer knowledge and
 26 expertise.

27 (d) No grant awarded under the program shall exceed
 28 one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000).

29 (e) *For the purposes of this section, “public access*
 30 *computer technology center” means a nonprofit*
 31 *community-based center located in a low-income*
 32 *neighborhood that provides access to technology and the*
 33 *Internet and technology skills training to underserved*
 34 *populations, including, but not limited to, youth. The*
 35 *purpose of the public access computer technology center*
 36 *is to provide opportunities for the general public to*
 37 *become trained and knowledgeable in the use of*
 38 *computers and to provide access to the Internet so that*
 39 *the general public may become familiar with the use of*
 40 *technology and the Internet and Internet resources.*

1 SEC. 3. The sum of _____ (\$_____) is hereby
2 appropriated from the General Fund to the State
3 Department of Education to be allocated according to
4 the following schedule:

5 (a) The sum of _____ dollars (\$_____) *to the*
6 *After School Learning and Safe Neighborhoods*
7 *Partnerships Program established pursuant to Article 22.5*
8 *(commencing with Section 8482) of Chapter 2 of Part 6*
9 *of the Education Code* to encourage schools to keep their
10 computer facilities open and ~~available to the public on~~
11 ~~evenings and weekends~~ *Internet access available* by
12 providing grant funds to cover the additional costs
13 incurred by a school as well as provide for the cost of
14 technical assistance at a level determined by the State
15 Department of Education.

16 (b) The sum of _____ (\$_____) to encourage
17 public libraries that have Internet access to extend the
18 hours and days during which access is available to the
19 public by providing grant funding to cover additional
20 costs incurred by the library as well as provide for the cost
21 of technical assistance at a level determined by the State
22 Department of Education.

23 (c) *The sum of _____ dollars (\$_____) to*
24 *encourage public access computer technology centers*
25 *that have Internet access to extend the hours and days*
26 *that access is available to the public by providing grant*
27 *funding to cover the additional costs incurred by the*
28 *public access computer technology center and the cost of*
29 *technical assistance at a level determined by the State*
30 *Department of Education.*