

# HOUSE RESEARCH

## Bill Summary

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### Overview

Provides funding for school technology and online learning grants, makes a one-time appropriation for pupil technology, and establishes a school technology task force.

#### Section

#### **1 Technology grants; task force established.**

**Subd. 1. Task force established.** Establishes a school technology task force.

**Subd. 2. Task force goals.** Lists ten task force goals: developing technology infrastructure and capacity standards; creating online student assessment standards; creating electronic student records standards; developing school interoperability frameworks; ensuring students' access to instructional resources; developing school district data bases; fostering collaboration to promote teaching and learning; developing uniform technology standards; establishing adequate Internet and bandwidth capacity; and streamlining the reporting of state and local education data.

**Subd. 3. Task force members.** Directs the education commissioner to appoint one member from each of 12 named entities and to provide the task force with needed materials and assistance.

**Subd. 4. Task force recommendations.** Directs the task force to report to the legislature by January 15, 2008, describing its established technology standards. Directs the commissioner to use the task force's recommendations and standards when awarding school technology grants under section 2.

**Subd. 5. Rulemaking.** Directs the commissioner to implement the task force

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recommendations using expedited rulemaking and allows a public hearing if 100 people request it.

Makes this section effective immediately.

### **2 School technology grants.**

**Subd. 1. Establishment; eligibility.** Establishes a program to support school districts, consortiums of school districts, and charter schools in achieving technology standards. Directs school districts, consortiums of school districts, and charter schools interested in participating in a competitive grant process to submit a technology plan to the education commissioner that proposes to use the grant to accomplish the following in the following order: obtain statewide technology infrastructure and capacity standards; incorporate student technology content standards within district curriculum and professional development activities for purposes of effective instruction; develop data-driven decision making models; and develop innovation in student learning and teacher professional development.

**Subd. 2. Application and review process; funding priority.** Directs school districts, consortiums of school districts, and charter schools interested in participating in a competitive grant process to apply to the commissioner. Lists the requirements for the application, including listing the proposed budget and expenditures and the efforts the applicant expects to undertake to achieve technology standards. Limits administrative costs to 5 percent of the budget. Allows the commissioner to give funding priority to an applicant that demonstrates: previous efforts to increase its technology infrastructure and capacity; a plan for closing the disparity between its current technology infrastructure and capacity and the minimum statewide standards for technology infrastructure and capacity; previous efforts to participate in online field testing of statewide assessments; or an ability to involve local entities in fostering collaboration to promote teaching and learning.

**Subd. 3. Application review; grant awards.** Allows the commissioner to award grants to qualified applicants on an equitable geographic basis and calculates the grant amount based on the number of participating students. Requires grant expenditures to be consistent with the grantee's application and the budget information the grantee periodically submits to the commissioner. Allows the commissioner to expend up to one percent of the appropriation for program administration.

**Subd. 4. Annual reports.** Directs grantees to report to the commissioner at the end of the grant period indicating whether the grantee achieved its goals. Directs the commissioner to make summary data about the program available to the legislature by February 15, 2010. Also requires grantees annually to report specified expenditure information to the commissioner.

Makes this section effective for the 2008 and 2009 fiscal years.

### **3 Online learning expansion grants.**

**Subd. 1. Outcomes.** Establishes four outcomes for expanding online learning in education: grant funding to expand and improve students' access to online learning in

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education; expanded academic opportunities, increased graduation rates, increased college eligibility and preparedness, and online remediation resources; increased numbers of students successfully completing online courses; and innovative online courses and programming.

**Subd. 2. Establishment; eligibility.** Establishes a competitive grant program to expand online courses and programs to K-12 and postsecondary institutions. Requires interested institutions to develop a proposal to provide programs for: dual credit; science, technology, engineering, and math fields; pre-advanced placement, advanced placement and international baccalaureate; or remediation.

**Subd. 3. Application and review process; funding priority.** Allows interested K-12 and postsecondary institutions to submit an application to the commissioner that details the applicant's proposed budget and expenditures and the efforts the applicant expects to undertake to expand online learning in education. Limits administrative costs to 5 percent of the budget.

**Subd. 4. Application review; grant awards.** Directs the commissioner to award grants to eligible applicants on an equitable geographic basis and calculates the grant amount based on the number of participating students. Requires grant expenditures to be consistent with the grantee's application and the budget information the grantee periodically submits to the commissioner. Allows the commissioner to expend up to one percent of the appropriation for program administration.

**Subd. 5. Annual reports.** Directs grantees to report to the commissioner at the end of the grant period indicating whether the grantee achieved the outcomes stated in the grantee's application. Directs the commissioner to make summary data about the program available to the legislature by February 15, 2010. Also requires grantees annually to report specified expenditure information to the commissioner.

Makes this section effective for the 2008 and 2009 fiscal years.

## **4 Appropriations.**

**Subd. 1. Department of education.** Appropriates indicated sums from the general fund to the education department for the fiscal years indicated.

**Subd. 2. School technology grants.** Makes a one-time appropriation of \$60,000,000 in fiscal year 2009 for school technology grants.

**Subd. 3. Online learning grants.** Appropriates \$2,500,000 in fiscal year 2008 and \$2,500,000 in fiscal year 2009 for online learning grants.

**Subd. 4. Per pupil technology.** (a) Makes a one-time appropriation of \$40,000,000 in fiscal year 2008 for pupil technology.

(b) Calculates the per pupil technology allowance by dividing \$40,000,000 by the total number of adjusted marginal cost pupil units for fiscal year 2008 and awards each school district an amount equal to that allowance times each school district's adjusted marginal cost pupil units for that year.

**Subd. 5. Task force expenses.** Appropriates \$20,000 for the school technology task force.

