

<u>NOW</u> is the time to join us—take action to support education technology!

Why Does Advocacy Matter?

Because federal policymakers in Washington, D.C., face a tight budget. And unless they hear from constituents, they'll cut funds from key programs—including those that keep classrooms competitive through education technology. As crucial Ed Tech programs come up for reauthorization in Congress, they are vulnerable to cuts and changes that can inhibit access and support for technology in the classroom. Without a vocal constituency advocating for funding in their home districts, elected officials can all too easily ignore the needs of America's 21st century learners.

What You Can Do:

- Stay informed—Visit <u>www.EdTechActionNetwork.org</u> to join ETAN and learn about important Ed Tech issues
- Take action—Send letters to your Members of Congress.
- **Tell-a-friend**—Spread the word to your friends and family about how they can make a difference too!
- Volunteer—Call 1.202.263.2573 to find out how you can be more involved at the local level

You can be an advocate. Help policymakers in

Washington, D.C., and in your state capitol, understand

the value and power of education technology in transforming learning, improving outcomes, and creating opportunities for all students!

What is the Education Technology Action Network (ETAN)?

ETAN is an online tool and policy resource that's both powerful and easy to use. Started in 2003 by the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) and the Consortium for School Networking (COSN), ETAN provides a forum for educators and others to engage in the political process and project a unified voice in support of a common cause—improving teaching and learning through the effective use of technology. ETAN's mission is to influence public policy-makers at the federal, state, and local levels and to increase public investment in the competitiveness of America's classrooms and students.

The Issues—EETT and E-Rate

This year, ETAN members and supporters are mobilizing to protect federal funding for two critical programs. The Enhancing Education Through Technology (EETT) program is absolutely vital for teacher training, hardware and software acquisition, and infrastructure development. For fully one quarter of all U.S. states, federal EETT monies are the *sole source* of funding to support technology in schools. For many other states, EETT provides most of their Ed Tech funding. ETAN is also focused on the E-Rate, a vital program that must be preserved as Congress overhauls current telecommunications law. Since 1998, E-Rate funds have ensured that nearly all students and teachers—regardless of their socioeconomic circumstances—can access online resources.

Why Join ETAN?

Because your voice makes all the difference. Because you'll learn how to raise awareness about vital issues with political decision-makers, media, and your community. Because you'll hear right away about important federal legislative actions and deadlines and receive tips for effective grassroots advocacy on the local, state, and federal levels.

ETAN is made possible through the sponsorship of:

