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[About CENIC](#)
[Network](#)
[Services](#)
[Projects](#)
[Associates](#)
[Publications](#)
[Events](#)


PUBLICATIONS

DCP Today

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Welcome to DCP Today, CENIC's monthly electronic newsletter detailing the latest news about the Digital California Project.

QUICK LINKS

[CENIC Today](#)
[DCP Today](#)
[GB Today](#)
[Brochures](#)
[Reports](#)
[Presentations](#)
[Video Presentations](#)
[Other Documents](#)
[CENIC Home](#)

IN THIS ISSUE:

[Digital California Project News](#)

- SB 720 (Bowen) Chaptered
- Content Needed For K-12 Online Resources Web Site
- California State Department of Education Staff Announcements
- NSBA Technology Conference, October 21st
- New Research on Access Issues: The Children's Partnership
- E-Rate Letters of Agency Deadline
- Del Norte County School District Awarded a Federal Teaching American History Grant
- U. C. Davis School of Education Hosts Eugene Hickok, Undersecretary of U. S. Department of Education
- Update on Federal Funding for Educational Technology Programs under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act
- DCP Program Steering Committee Meeting Notice
- CETPA's "Engineering the Future of Educational Technology" Conference
- Call for Conference Announcements

[About CENIC](#)

[About DCP](#)

[Subscription Information](#)

[Digital California Project News](#)

SB 720 (Bowen) Chaptered

SB 720, authored by Senator Debra Bowen (D-Marina del Rey), was signed by Governor Gray Davis on September 25th. The measure authorizes the CPUC's California Teleconnect Fund to provide up to \$3 million for schools, libraries, and other community organizations. These organizations can apply for funds to help pay for costs of establishing high speed connections to either the commercial internet or CalREN. The measure authored by Senator Bowen, was endorsed by DCP as an effort to help those school districts currently not connected to CENIC's CalREN network. We are hopeful that the California Teleconnect Fund monies will enable virtually every school site in the state to finally be connected at T-1 or faster.

DCP's next step will be to have conversations with the California Public Utilities Commission on the implementation of SB 720 to help develop regulations regarding how the process will work for districts interested in the measure's provisions.

Content Needed For K-12 Online Resources Web Site

During the past year, DCP staff has worked with representatives of the various state agencies that have a governance role in K-12 education to develop a Web site that will provide easy access to quality K-12 online teaching and learning resources. The site has now been developed and is available at <http://www.DigitalCalifornia.net>.

However, for the site to achieve its full potential, DCP needs your suggestions for additional appropriate resources. Because the site was built using state-of-the-art online database technology, anyone can easily submit information about online resources or upcoming online events. Don't be shy about suggesting your own organization's accomplishments as a possible feature on the homepage. You can even include a photo, graphic or video file! To suggest a resource, simply click on a button under the 'Submit a Resource' tab in the main header and complete and submit the online forms. To maintain high standards, all submissions will be reviewed before making them publicly accessible.

The more quality resources we can make available on the site, the more valuable it will be for everyone. We appreciate and encourage your resource suggestions. If you have other ideas or comments regarding the site, please send them to sacto-aa@cenic.org.

California State Department of Education Staff Announcements

Barbara E. Thalacker has been appointed Administrator, Education Technology Unit at the California Department of Education, where she had previously been in the Assessment office and in Special Education. Nancy Sullivan has announced her departure from the Department and her new position with the Bay Area School Reform Collaborative, BASRC.

Ms. Thalacker is responsible for programs that currently include the following:

- Eleven regional California Technology Assistance Projects (CTAP)
- Three Statewide Educational Technology Services (SETS) to include the California Learning Resource Network (CLRN), TICAL, and TechSETS
- The No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Enhancing Education Through Technology (EETT) formula and competitive grants
- The CTAP2 on-line teacher and student technology competency assessment system
- E-Rate and Teleconnect
- The annual Statewide Technology Survey
- Statewide technology plan development

Details about these and other current and emerging programs can be found on the CDE web-site: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/edtech/>.

NSBA Technology Conference, October 21st

The National School Boards Association hosted the T+L2 Conference October 21 in Anaheim. The conference was opened by Kerry Mazzoni, Secretary of Education in the Gray Davis Administration and former member of the California Legislature.

Speakers included: John Fleischman, Director, Technology Services, Sacramento County Office Education, Larry Nelson, Global Market Development Manager, Sun Microsystems, Paul Tichinin, Superintendent, Mendocino County Office of Education, Kathy Hackler, Gartner Group, Garrett McKay, Director of Technology, El Monte U.H.S.D., Todd Ullah, Director, Technology Applications, Los Angeles USD, Honey Burg, Director of Library Services, Moreland E.S.D., John Vaille, President, Enterprise Learning Solutions, Patrick Leier, Superintendent, Pomona U.S.D., Richard Thome, Assistant Superintendent San Diego U.S.D., and from the Imperial County Office of Education; Todd Finnell, Director Learning Technologies, Alan Phillips, Media Service Coordinator, Mike Castillo, Technology Coordinator, and Tom Tacke, Distance Education Coordinator.

New Research on Access Issues: The Children's Partnership

The Children's Partnership, a national nonprofit research organization working to ensure that all children, especially those at risk of being left behind, have the resources to grow up healthy and lead productive lives, released their new report this week, *The Search for High-Quality Online Content for Low-Income and Underserved Communities, Evaluating and Producing What's Needed*. The Partnership researches emerging issues that affect large numbers of children in the fields of healthcare, education and technology. A newly released study on how to make the digital world more accessible to people with low incomes, limited literacy or English skills, or disabilities calls for attention to a persistent "content gap" which leaves the promise of the Web unfulfilled.

The Children's Partnership study provides the digital world with thoughtful challenges to consider in the evaluation criteria that we use, the literacy tools we provide, the language in our materials, the cultural nuances of our work, and the need for simple directions in multiple languages for as much of the content we make available.

The Children's Partnership recommends 11 key ways to improve the accessibility of web materials to children and families who have found it difficult to fully benefit from the resources on the web. You can read their recommendations and report at <http://www.contentbank.org/research/QualityContent.pdf>

E-Rate Letters of Agency Deadline

Letters have been sent to all school districts requesting participation in the DCP E-Rate consortium which will allow DCP to apply for the E-Rate discount. Last year, 529 districts signed the letters of agency and it is hoped that number will increase for the 2004-05 year. Your joining the DCP consortium allows us to strengthen California's statewide telecommunications network that is serving you.. Please encourage your district to sign the Letter of Agency and return it by November 7th.

To download the LOA, you may go to: <http://www.cenic.org/dcp/index.htm>

Del Norte County School District Awarded a Federal Teaching American History Grant

Del Norte County School District was one of 114 school districts in the US to receive a competitive Teaching American History Grant. The Del Norte County school district plans to partner with Indiana University, the Del Norte County Historical Society, and Del Norte County Museum to design and deliver staff development that will expand teaching and learning opportunities in American history with a focus on local history of the area and the Native American populations in the area. The need for the project has to do with the loss of history, language, and culture among our Native American youth (14% of student population) – and the general loss of opportunities to learn about how personal histories tie into our nation's history as we lose our elder citizens. The Del Norte Teaching American History project will consist of five major components:

- Content instruction in the scope of American history for teachers.
- Pedagogy instruction and practice in oral history, primary documents, and museum instruction.
- Interaction with local historical sites.
- Oral history through video documentation of senior citizens in Del Norte County.

- Creation of classroom curriculum using primary documents, oral history techniques, and museum resources and techniques.

The professional development plan for the project will include a one-week summer institute and five Saturday workshops each year to deepen the teachers' knowledge of history content, pedagogy, curriculum development, and evaluation. The development and use of an evidence-based experimental evaluation program will test and report on the impact of the project on teaching and learning. The overall result will be a restructuring of American history curriculum throughout Del Norte County.

The project will take advantage of the high-speed network made possible by the Digital California Project through the development of three web-based instructional resources: (1) instructional lessons and activities related to Native American history will be web-accessible to teachers in the region, (2) oral histories related to the Native Americans and the area will be web-accessible, and (3) segments of the professional development sessions will be available using video over the Internet. Use of the Internet will eventually make it possible to disseminate the project curriculum, oral histories, and the professional development offered by experts in history content and strategies to other educators throughout the state.

For additional information contact: Chris York, Del Norte County School District at cyork@delnorte.k12.ca.us

Source: John Cradler, Educational Support Systems

U. C. Davis School of Education Hosts Eugene Hickok, Undersecretary of U. S. Department of Education

U.S. Department of Education Undersecretary, Eugene Hickok, was the featured speaker at the inaugural UC Davis, Capitol City Education Forum in held in early October in Sacramento. Hickok's presentation on No Child Left Behind was followed by questions and answers. Asked about the role of technology in education, Hickok said he hopes a recent White House meeting with a small group of business and technology leaders will be the basis for an announcement in the near future of a new education technology initiative.

Update on Federal Funding for Educational Technology Programs under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act

The House and Senate are presently conferring on HR 2660, Federal funding related to educational technology programs. The following table shows that the Senate supports programs recommended for elimination by the House. Senate supported programs include: 1) Star Schools distance learning programs, and 2) Community Technology Center Programs.

The Preparing Tomorrows Teachers for Technology (PT3) program was not supported by either house. The US DoEd. just approved 25 projects with the remaining carryover funding.

Title I funding can be used for technology to support instruction for educationally disadvantaged populations, and Title II supports grants using technology to support training that would improve teacher quality, and the Educational Technology State Grants are the component of No Child Left Behind (NCLB) known as Enhancing Education Through Technology (EETT) formula and competitive grants. California will receive about \$89 million for 2004-05 for EETT grants. As the table shows these programs are supported by both Houses.

The following lists these programs and their respective Senate and House funding allocations:

Program	Senate	House
Title I - Compensatory Education	\$12.35 billion	\$12.35 billion
Title II - Improving Teacher Quality State Grants	\$2.85 billion	\$2.93 billion
Education Technology State Grants	\$695.9 million	\$695.9 million
Preparing Tomorrows Teachers for Technology (PT3)	\$0	\$0
Community Technology Centers Program	\$20.5 million	\$0

After the two houses agree on the language, the Administration will approve or veto the bill.

Source: John Cradler, Educational Support Systems

DCP Program Steering Committee Notice

The next meeting of the Digital California Project's Program Steering Committee will take place on November 12, 2003 from 9:30 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. at the Community College Chancellor's Office in Sacramento (1102 Q Street). Attendees will discuss the Planning Committee's recommendations for DCP activities in the 2003-04 year and approaches for securing necessary funding to maintain service at the current levels. The meeting is open to the public.

CETPA's "Engineering the Future of Educational Technology" Conference

The California Education Technology Professionals Association (CETPA) conference will be held November 19-21 in Santa Barbara. State Superintendent Jack O'Connell will be the keynote speaker. Forty workshops are planned for the event. For more information, go to <http://www.cetpa-k12.org/> or call 562 922 6141.

Call for Conference Announcements

If you would like to post information about upcoming conferences and seminars in the DCP Today, please send us a short paragraph with the date, cost, and a link or phone number for more information and we will include it in DCP Today. You may email information about your event to sacto-aa@cenic.org.

About CENIC

CENIC is a not-for-profit corporation serving California Institute of Technology, California State University, Stanford University, University of California, University of Southern California, California Community Colleges and the statewide K-12 school system.

CENIC's mission is to facilitate and coordinate the development, deployment and operation of a set of robust multi-tiered advanced network services for this research and education community.

More information about CENIC can be found at www.cenic.org.

About DCP

The Digital California Project is a project of CENIC. Funded by the State of California, the DCP was designed to build the necessary network infrastructure needed to prepare California's schools to take advantage of tomorrow's advances in network technology. In essence, CENIC is developing an advanced-services network to serve the entire California K-20 education and research community.

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