



LEADING THE WAY TO TOMORROW'S INTERNET



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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.

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DCP Oversight Shifts from UC to K-12

As many DCP Today subscribers know, the 2004-05 State budget provides funds to maintain the K-12 high speed network and calls for administration of the K-12 Network funds to be transferred from UC to a lead County Office of Education.

The California Department of Education has issued the Request for Applications to County Offices of Education interested in submitting proposals to become the Lead Education Agency. The Lead Agency will be selected by CDE by September 15th. In the meantime, CENIC continues to operate the network and expects that the network will continue to run smoothly throughout the funding transition.

CTF Restoration Bill Awaits Governor's Action

SB 1276 authored by Senator Debra Bowen was amended to include authorization for the California Public Utilities Commission to provide \$18 million in (CTF) telecommunications discounts for schools, libraries, hospitals and community based organizations. Just a month ago, the 2004-05 California Teleconnect Fund budget item was eliminated and no funds would be available to continue discounts in 2004-05. The education community, under the leadership of CCSESA, DCP and others, went into high gear to work with Senator Bowen to restore CTF funding.

SB 1276 is now on the Governor's desk awaiting action. He has until September 30th to sign or veto the measure. SB 1276 is an urgency measure which means that it would become effective upon signature by the Governor, thus opening the opportunity for the CPUC to institute a surcharge at the level necessary to raise the \$18 million to fund discounts. Letters of support are needed to encourage the Governor to sign SB 1276. For more information and a sample letter, email Stephanie Couch at scouch@cenic.org.

Legislative Update

In the closing days of the Legislative session, a number of bills which will impact K-12 education technology programs and the administration of technology services were considered. These bills include:

SB 1254 (SOTO) extends the sunset date for the California Technology Assistance Project (CTAP) through 2009. The measure will expand the responsibilities of the CTAP to work more closely with underserved/low income school districts. The bill is on the Governor's desk awaiting action.

SB 1380 (ESCUTIA) allows local school districts to review and select instructional materials they deem appropriate and aligned to standards and recommend them to the State Board of Education. The bill was amended to include consultation with the "exclusive representative" of teachers before sending the recommendations to the State Board of Education. In the event the State Board does not adopt the instructional materials within 90 days, the materials will be automatically adopted and the local board will have the authority to purchase the materials. SB 1380 has been sent to the Governor for action.

SB 1384 (SCOTT) requires the California Learning Resource Network to review electronic assessment resources to assist local school districts in the selection of online resources. A major goal is to give principals and teachers more information on individual student achievement so they can "design more individualized learning and instructional programs for each pupil".

SB 1384 includes a directive to explore the feasibility of an online customer feedback feature so teachers and administrators can register their opinions on the quality and usability of the various online assessment tools. The bill is an urgency measure which required two thirds vote for passage and is now on the Governor's desk.

AB 2416 (GOLDBERG) authorizes local governing boards to review and recommend supplemental materials to the State Board of Education for approval. Local boards may use their Reading First funds to purchase supplemental materials so long as they have previously purchased the SBE approved materials. If the State Board fails to adopt the materials within 90 days, they will automatically be approved and local boards may use Reading First funds to purchase them. The bill is now on the Governor's desk for action.

AB 2706 (BERG) requires three to five year education technology plans as a condition of receipt of education technology funds and provides technical assistance for districts in the development stage of the plans. The measure also makes changes in the Enhancing Education Through Technology (EETT) program grants, with a minimum level for small school districts and makes changes in the competitive grant awards by region and sets a minimum grant level for each region. The bill, sponsored by the Small School Districts' Association, is now before the Governor.

The Governor must act on all of the above bills by September 30th. For the latest information about these proposals, go to: <http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/>

Federal Communications Commission E-Rate Hearing

The October 6th hearing of the Federal Communications Commission will focus on positive E-rate experiences. If your district would like to share information about the benefits of the E-rate program, and you are willing to present the information at the Washington D.C. hearing, please contact Van Wilkinson at vanwilkinson@shastalink.k12.ca.us for information, or indicate your interest directly at edsymposium@fcc.gov.

Proposed Cuts for Enhancing Education through Technology (EETT) Grants

Recent action by the House Appropriations Committee to reduce the Enhancing Education Through Technology (EETT) grants in the 2005 budget is causing consternation in the education technology community. The proposed \$91.8 million cut to EETT would substantially reduce the impact of the program. A second proposed cut of \$9.9 million in the Community Technology Centers budget item would effectively kill the CTC program.

These two actions in the House of Representatives should raise the red flag for educators. While the Senate Appropriations Committee hasn't released a summary of their 2005 proposed budget, now is the time to begin lobbying Members of Congress on the importance of keeping education technology programs on the list of priorities for K-12 schools.

CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Youth Development Summit

October 1, 2004

The third annual Statewide Youth Development Summit will be held at locations across the state and will be linked by a web cast at various times during the day. In the March DCP Today, the 11 regional recipients of Youth Development grants were announced. Each of the regions will help coordinate conferences for youth and adults to discuss strategies for youth involvement in policy making efforts including youth councils, city councils, school boards, public commissions and committees, non-profit organizations etc. In the next several months, key county office of education locations will be identified to host the web casts based in part upon the acceptance of guest speakers who will broadcast presentations to the regional sites. The DCP CalREN Network will enable the connection of the multi-site conference.

Tower of Youth Digital Media Showcase

Sacramento

October 2, 2004

The 8th Annual Teen Digital Reel Showcase and Awards will take place in Sacramento on October 2nd at the Crest Theater in downtown. The event, which will attract more than 1,000 teens, teachers and digital media professionals, will feature digital media creations by Sacramento Valley and Sierra foothill regional high school youth. Young people from Sacramento, Yolo, El Dorado, Placer, Nevada and San Joaquin counties will participate. Students from high schools and community based media arts programs may submit work related to the environment, public service, art of partnership, the wonder of sound and music or a short story. A special category for 2004 is Leadership. For more information about the Tower of Youth program sponsors, go to <http://www.towerofyouth.org/mainindex.htm>.

October Keystone Conference on K-12 Videoconferencing

Indianapolis
October 25-26, 2004

K-12 Videoconferencing will be the subject of a two day conference to be held in Indianapolis on October 25 and 26 and simultaneously via two way interactive video conferencing nation-wide. Conference sponsors are currently soliciting presentation proposals from K-12 programs demonstrating their use of videoconference technology. K-12 practitioners interested in submitting proposals can go to www.keystoneconference.org for more information.

National School Boards Association T+L2 Conference

Denver
October 27-29, 2004

The National School Boards Association's Technology + Leadership + Learning, (T+L2) Conference is scheduled for October 27-29th in Denver, Colorado. The conference, "Turn Up the Power" will feature nationally recognized education technology speakers in presentations and panel discussions on issues of interest to school leaders. Several thousand school board members, administrators, teachers and librarians are expected to attend the three day conference. For more information, you can go to <http://www.nsba.org/T+L/> or email sfolks@nsba.org

CCBE/PTA/CCSESA Annual Conference: Partnerships for Success

Monterey
March 11-13, 2005

Workshop proposals are due September 24, 2004. For more information, go to <http://www.ccsesa.org/> or call Kate Osborn at the CCSESA office at (916) 448-7801.

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.

Subscription Information

You can subscribe to DCP Today online by visiting our website:

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