

Achievement Through Technology and Innovation Act of 2011 (ATTAIN) – S. 1178

The ATTAIN Act would replace the current education technology program in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (also known as the “No Child Left Behind Act”). It would build upon its successes of the current program while focusing resources on practices known to best leverage technology for educational advancement. The ATTAIN Act recognizes that learning technologies are a critical ingredient to improve student achievement, ensure high quality teaching, and improve the productivity of our nation’s educational system.

ATTAIN would distribute funding differently based upon the amount of funding available:

State Competitive Grants – If the appropriation for ATTAIN for any given year is less than \$300 million, the U.S. Secretary of Education would award competitive grants to consortia of State educational agencies to maximize the impact of available funds.

State Formula Grants - If the appropriation for ATTAIN for any given year is equal to or more than \$300 million, the funds will be allocated to states based upon student poverty rates.

I. State Competitive Grants (If the annual appropriation is less than \$300 million)

The Secretary of Education will conduct a national competition and award funds to States or consortia of States based on the following priorities:

- Student advancement and graduation is based upon student learning outcomes instead of seat-time;
- Students have access to high-quality digital content and online courses without arbitrary enrollment caps;
- Teacher certification or licensure requires educators to be technology literate;
- States allow the use of state funds for technology tools and applications, and state rules support adoption of electronic learning materials;
- States have learning standards that include student technology literacy standards, and State performance standards assess student technology literacy.

Not less than 75 percent of the State Consortia grant funds will be allocated to school districts to carry out the grant activities, which include developing and implementing online or blended learning programs; curriculum redesign; and offering innovative digital instructional practices that personalize learning. Activities may also include preparing for and administering next-generation digital state assessments; using technology to improve productivity and reduce costs; and preparing administrators to lead systemic education transformation through technology.

II. Formula Grants to States (If appropriation is \$300 million or more)

Funds are awarded to states according to student poverty rates. States allocate 40% of funds for competitive grants to districts, and 60% by student poverty formula to districts. States enjoy significant flexibility and discretion in awarding and using federal funds to provide professional development for teachers and adopt technology that improves instruction and student outcomes.