

Ed Tech Advocates Converge on Capitol Hill

More than 100 advocates from 26 states gathered in Washington, DC this month for the Washington Education Technology Policy Summit, sponsored by the International Society for Technology in Education, the Consortium for School Networking, and the State Educational Technology Directors Association. These educators and technology proponents met with the congressional delegations from their respective states to promote the need for more funding for education technology programs, particularly Title IID/Enhancing Education Through Technology (EETT) under the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB), as well as the E-Rate program. These efforts were particularly timely as Congress has just begun its FY09 Appropriations cycle.

During the summit, attendees received updates on federal education technology legislation from Washington, DC based experts and were provided training on how to best make their voices heard on Capitol Hill. The summit also featured a panel of Capitol Hill staffers, including David Johns, Majority Staff for the Senate Health, Education, Labor & Pensions (HELP) Committee and Lindsay Hunsicker, Minority Staff for the HELP Committee. Johns and Hunsicker gave their forecast for the coming year's education legislation, agreeing that movement in Congress over the next eight weeks will determine whether the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) will be reauthorized in 2008.