



A Sustainable Vision for Education Transformation

Policy Brief

Together, we can ensure that even after the three-year stimulus package benefits have passed, schools and educators are on a sustainable path for delivering 21st century education.

The opportunity before us—presented by the stimulus package—is a great one: the transformation of U.S. education. The statistics demonstrating that the U.S. education system is struggling are overwhelming. Our country is currently suffering from a significant resource shortage of engineers and scientists. Taken together, these challenges put our nation at competitive risk.

With the stimulus imminent, there is increased discussion between business leaders, policy makers, and school leadership. These decision makers seek to define the skills needed for the 21st century, and to understand the changes required to prepare the next generations of students—changes in curricular and teaching techniques, the role technology should and will play, and in the instructional and assessment process to support new learning environments.

Intel has been a committed leader in advancing policies to improve teaching and learning. These policies are designed to ensure that all students obtain the skills necessary to succeed in a knowledge-based economy—of key importance if the U.S. is to remain globally competitive. Moreover, organizations such as the P21, CoSN, and ISTE emphasize the need for an education system that supports and engenders creativity and higher-order thinking. In the Internet age, students must be globally aware, civically engaged, and more adept in the areas of economics and technology. They must be able to apply this knowledge by thinking critically, assessing new situations, comprehending new ideas, communicating, collaborating, and solving problems. Knowing how to learn is increasingly important and technology is increasingly the medium for communicating, information sharing, and collaboration.

Intel believes that well-trained teachers are the single biggest factor toward closing the achievement gap, and that stimulus dollars should be allocated toward training teachers in technology, science, and mathematics. If, as a nation, we are to close the achievement gap, teachers and administrators require appropriate tools to achieve transformation. Many schools across the country are currently operating with antiquated PCs in their labs, libraries, classrooms, and administration. Stimulus dollars should be used to refresh legacy IT assets, as well as standardize assets across the school system. Schools must update broadband infrastructures to a wireless model. Combined, these steps will reduce costs, increase productivity, and create a more eco-friendly environment, while providing relevant, high-quality education to our next generation of citizens.

Unfortunately, even with the stimulus package in place, schools are in peril of facing significant budget gaps three years from now. School systems must seize this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to increase the use of enterprise-class technology to reduce operational costs. Recognizing that the ultimate goal is enhanced learning, we also believe that stimulus dollars should be used to provide teachers with an up-to-date classroom environment, with 21st century tools such as a laptop and interactive white board, along with the professional development to integrate technology into their classrooms. Policy should enable universal access to the rich digital content of the information age in order to effectively support the learning styles and needs of all students. Lastly, Intel wholeheartedly believes that every child should have access at school, especially since many do not have access at home.

Innovative thinking is the foundation of tomorrow's competitive success and of the leadership, discovery, creativity, and invention that will enrich our nation and all our futures. This is a critical opportunity to address areas of our educational system that can reinspire and reignite innovation. Intel brings expertise, commitment, effective educational programs, and world-class technology.

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Notably, monies can be drawn from and across multiple American Recovery and Reinvestment Act sources in order to achieve this powerful vision for our nation's young people, such as:

Fiscal Stabilization Funds

General Fiscal Stabilization Funds

State Incentive Grants

Innovation Funds

Fiscal Stabilization Funds for Outlying Areas

Education for the Disadvantaged (Title I¹)

- Targeted grants
- Education finance grants
- School improvement grants

Special Education

- Part A and B of IDEA

School Improvement Programs (Title II)

- Enhancing Education through Technology
- Title VII, subtitle B McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act

Innovation and Improvement

Broadband Technology Opportunities Program

Distance Learning, Telemedicine, and Broadband Programs

National Science Foundation Research and Related Activities

National Center for Research Resources

- Medical and scientific research
- Construction and renovation of research facilities
- Research equipment

National Institute of Standards and Technology Research Facilities

- To finance the maintenance, renovation and new construction of research facilities

For additional information, visit www.k12blueprint.com.

To learn more about Intel's education initiatives, visit www.intel.com/education.

1. Title I allocations awarded under the stimulus package are required to be targeted to LEAs with 5% or more census poverty—which is different than the traditional Title 1 requirements.

