



The State of Federal Ed Tech Policy

Jon Bernstein

President

Bernstein Strategy Group



Agenda

- Federal Ed Tech Status
- Ed Tech Appropriations and Reauthorization
- E-Rate
- i3 and Race to the Top



Federal Ed Tech Issue Status

- Congress/Administration Working on 3 Ed-Related Issues
 - FY11 Budget/Appropriations
 - “Administration proposes; Congress disposes.”
 - ESEA Reauthorization
 - Universal Service Reform (including E-Rate)



Administration's FY11 Proposal

- Overall, budget would provide 6.2% increase for USDE
- Administration uses FY11 Budget request to both seek appropriations and outline changes to ESEA
- Administration vision of ESEA: fewer, larger programs; more flexibility; and more competitions



Administration's FY11 Proposal

- **Collapse 36 existing programs into 9 priorities:**
 - Promoting Innovation in Education
 - Effective Teachers and School Leaders
 - Supporting Student Success
 - Improving STEM Education
 - All Students College- and Career Ready
 - College Access and Completion
 - Higher Education Programs
 - Improving Outcomes for Adult Learners
 - Research, Statistics and Data Systems



Administration's FY11 Proposal

■ Promoting Innovation

- Race to the Top -- \$1.35B

- Would open to districts

- i3 -- \$500M

- \$150M for STEM projects

- Tech as competitive preference priority?

- Expanding Education Options (charter schools, public school choice, parent information and resource centers, and smaller learning communities) -- \$490M

Administration's FY11 Proposal

■ **Effective Teachers and School Leaders**

- State Block grants (old Title IIA) -- \$2.5B (\$500M cut)
- Teacher and Leader Innovation Fund -- \$950M (\$550M increase)
- Effective Teaching and Learning for a Complete Education program -- \$965M
 - Literacy component (\$450 million)
 - STEM component (\$300 million)
 - Well-rounded education component (\$265 million)
 - Technology infused throughout all three...but no specific money



Administration's FY11 Proposal

- All Students College and Career-Ready
 - Title I -- \$14.5B (flat funded)
 - IDEA -- \$11.8B (\$250M increase)
 - English Learner Education Program --\$800M (\$50M increase)
- Research, Statistics and Data Systems
 - Statewide Data Systems -- \$65M (\$7M increase)



Administration's FY11 Proposal

- If ESEA can't be passed, Admin funding priorities are:
 - \$1.35B for Race to the Top
 - \$500M for i3
 - \$900M for School Improvement Grants
 - \$800M for the Teacher Incentive Fund
 - \$50M for Teacher Recruitment
 - \$79.2M for School Leadership
 - \$310M for Charter Schools
 - \$210M for Promise Neighborhoods



Administration's FY11 Proposal

■ Congressional Concerns

- Stable, consistent funding needed by states/districts during economic crisis – continue formula funding
- Competitions disadvantage rural, low income districts
- Hard to fund unproven programs – i3 and Race to the Top



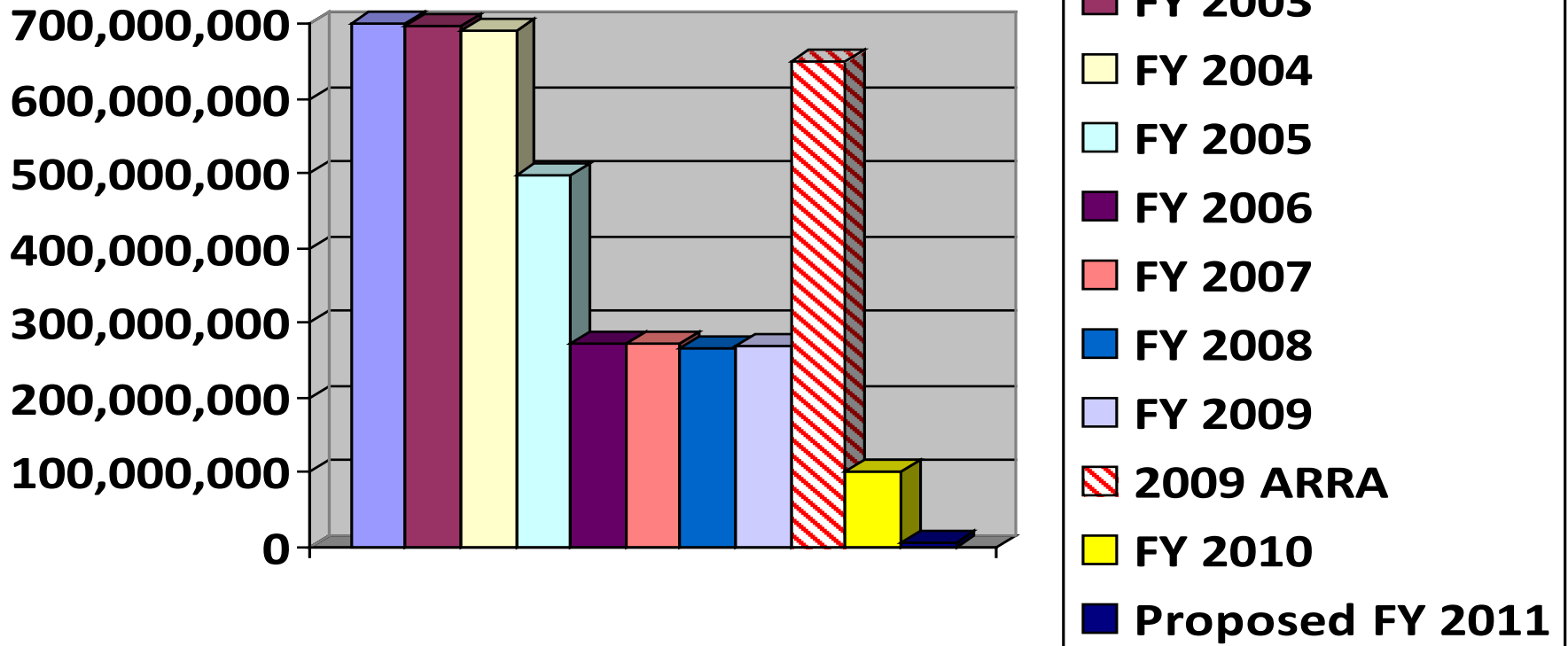
FY11 Education Appropriations

- *Education Technology in FY11 Budget Proposal*

- EETT is current direct ed tech program
- Administration's FY11 Budget Proposes \$0
- Administration would consolidate EETT in new ESEA and “infuse” tech in other education programs

Ed Tech Funding History

EETT Since 2002





Administration's FY11 Proposal

■ Ed Tech Groups Response

- **Support Meaningful Infusion** “with new language reflecting mandatory tech spending and competitive preference priorities”
 - I3: Technology must be a competitive preference priority.
 - Race to the Top: App. guidelines must require applying states/districts to detail how tech will be used to meet four assurances and other related goals
 - Title I: App. guidelines must require applying states/districts to detail how tech will be used to meet program goals/requirements
 - Effective Teachers and Leaders State Grants: States/districts must set aside percentage of all funds to train educators in using tech and integrating it into their curricula.



Administration's FY11 Proposal

■ Ed Tech Groups Response

- Support Separate Ed Tech Program “to coordinate the implementation of this infusion.”
- Continue to support **ATTAIN (HR 558/ S.818)**
 - targets ed tech competitive funding towards innovation
 - preferences for low-performing student subgroups
 - supports state and local capacity building and leadership
 - increases funding for tech prof development
 - reinvigorates technology literacy requirement



FY11 Appropriations Forecast

- If no ESEA by May, then current programs will be basis of legislation + Admin priorities
- EETT prospects uncertain – but ARRA argument no longer can be made
- Other Issues
 - Flat or limited funding for major programs like Title I and IDEA
 - Expensive Admin priorities for unauthorized and untested programs – Race to the Top, i3
 - Proposed elimination of popular programs



ESEA Reauthorization

■ Administration Blueprint

- AYP testing continues but outcomes – college and career readiness – will also count
- Schools that achieve receive rewards: monetary or flexibility w/ESEA requirements
- Bottom 5% of schools would have to implement one of four turn around models
- Highly effective teachers new standard, metrics will include student growth



ESEA Reauthorization

- Technology in Blueprint
 - Cross-cutting priority in competitions
 - Capacity building
 - Priority in STEM/Literacy/Well-Rounded Program
 - No specific, separate ed tech program



ESEA Reauthorization

■ Forecast

□ House, Senate Committees working on separate versions; Administration collaborating

□ Obstacles

- Controversial provisions: consolidation, merit pay, changing AYP
- Floor time
- Appetite for major legislation
- Election year



E-Rate

- \$2.25 billion per year program to connect schools and libraries
- Deep discounts, based on poverty measures, on telecommunications, Internet access and internal connections
- Not appropriated funds, paid for through fees on telephone bills
- Program oversubscribed by \$1.75B annually



E-Rate After School Usage Change

- FCC approves temporary change in afterschool usage policy
- Must be made permanent before June 30, 2011
- Cannot cost the program any additional money. How to measure?
- CIPA applicability



E-Rate Raising the Cap

- Rockefeller/Markey: raise cap to reflect inflation
- National Broadband Plan: Raise E-Rate's cap each year to account for inflation. (FCC calculates that E-Rate's current annual spending has fallen by \$650M in inflation adjusted dollars since 1998.)
- Issues:
 - How much?
 - Where does the money come from?



E-Rate – New Proposals

■ Markey Legislation

□ Home Access Pilot

- Funding: \$500M through E-Rate
- Eligibility: Secondary, Title I students with computers
- Duration: at least five years

□ Head Start/Community Colleges Pilot

- Funding: \$150M through appropriations
- Eligible Services: broadband equipment and services
- Duration: ?

□ eBooks Pilot

- Funding: \$50M through E-Rate funded
- Eligibility: Secondary schools with highest discount rates
- Duration: 4 years



E-Rate New Proposals

■ National Broadband Plan

- Set minimum broadband connectivity goals for schools/libraries and prioritize funding accordingly.
- Allow schools to not only lease but buy infrastructure facilities, where it makes sense economically.
- Allow E-Rate to support wireless connectivity to student portable learning devices, even when taken off campus.
- Congress should appropriate funding to connect all public community colleges with high speed broadband and maintain that connectivity.

i3

■ Investing in Innovation

- \$650 million competitive grant program for LEAs run out of USDE
- 20% match required

- Current Status:
 - Final applications due in May
 - All grants must be obligated by September 30, 2010

i3

- i3 Grant Eligibility
 - LEAs
 - Non-profits partnering with:
 - One or more LEAs, or
 - Consortium of schools
- i3Priorities
 - Absolute Priorities – Applications must address one of the four assurances:
 - Improving teacher effectiveness
 - Data systems
 - College and career readiness standards
 - Improving achievement in low performing schools

i3

■ i3 Grant Levels

□ Scale- Up Grants (\$50 million)

- Requires “strong evidence”

□ Validation Grants (\$30 million)

- Requires lower levels of research evidence

□ Development Grants (\$5 million)

- Requires evidence that concepts have been tested on a limited scale



i3

- All applications must have:
 - Strong, independent evaluations
 - Sustainability
 - Scalability
 - Ability to provide 20% cash or in-kind matching

i3

■ Conclusions

- Not really innovative; interested in scaling innovations that have already shown promise
- Targeted at academically successful LEAs and schools, not low performers
- Only the financially able or sophisticated need apply

Race to the Top

- \$4 billion ARRA comp. grant program for states
- **Timeline for two rounds:**
 - **Phase I**
 - Applications period closed on January 19, 2009
 - 41 states applied; 16 finalists
 - Two winners: Tennessee (\$500M) and Delaware (\$100M)
 - **Phase 2**
 - Application period opens in late spring 2010
 - Applications due on June 1, 2010.
 - Awards will be announced in September 2010.
- Although states can apply for both funding opportunities, they can only receive one award.



Race to the Top

■ General Distribution Rules

- Only State Governors can apply.
- States that receive funds must distribute 50% of the funds in accordance with Title I funding formulas to school districts that “opt-in” to a state’s proposed plan. Includes charters.
- Remaining 50% can be distributed however states see fit, however – either by formula or competition. Priority should be given to high-need school districts.



Race to the Top,

■ Eligibility Requirements

- Must have Phase I and II of SFSF approved before receiving an award.
- No legal statutory or regulatory barriers to linking data on student achievement or student growth to teachers and principals for purposes of evaluation.



Race to the Top

- **Absolute Application Priorities** – State applications must cover all 4 assurances.
- **Competitive Preference Priority – STEM (only 15 points)**
 - Rigorous course of study in STEM subjects
 - Cooperate with industry, museums in integrating STEM content across all disciplines
 - Prepare more students for advanced study and careers in STEM disciplines, including getting underrepresented groups and women and girls involved.



Race to the Top

■ Selection Criteria

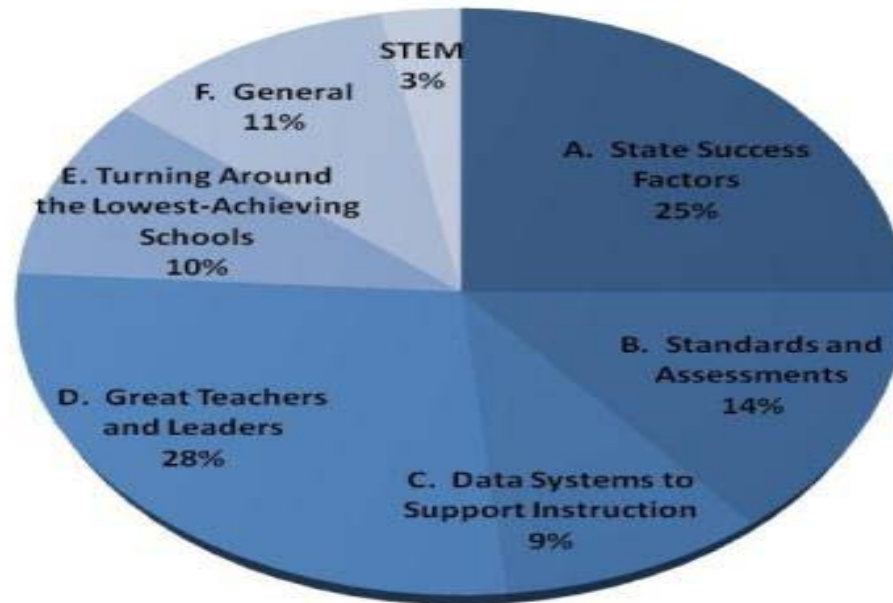
- Perfect Application – 400 points

- Criteria Points by Rank:

- Great Teachers and Leaders – 138 points
- State Success Factors – 125 points
- Standards and Assessments – 70 points
- General Selection Criteria – 55 points
- Turning Around Low Achieving Schools – 50 points
- Data Systems to Support Instruction – 47 points

Race to the Top

Race to the Top Points



Race to the Top

- Key Issues (and point getters)
 - Great Teachers and Leaders (138 points)
 - Improving teacher and principal effectiveness based on performance (58 points) – Union concern/use of data.
 - Plan for ensuring equitable distribution of effective teachers and principals to high poverty schools. (25 points)
 - States must have alternative legal pathways to certify teachers and principals in place and being used. (21 points) – Union concern.



Race to the Top

- State Success Factors (125 points)
 - Articulating state education agenda and LEA agreement to participate (65 points)
- Standards and Assessments (70 points)
 - Developing and Adopting Common Standards (40 points) – Alaska and Texas not participating.

Race to the Top

- General Selection Criteria (55 points)
 - No laws that prohibit or effectively inhibit increase in number of charter schools or restrict enrollment increases, equitable funding of charters vis a vis regular schools, and facilities funding. (40 points)
 - 10 states have no charter school laws: AL, KY, ME, MT, NE, ND, SD, VT, WA, and WV.
 - 26 states have caps: e.g., TX, OH, CA, NY, IL



Race To The Top

- Key Factors in Winning
 - Union support (FL)
 - District support (LA)
- Key Concern for Round 2 – will states expend time, money and energy to apply again?



Contact Information

Jon Bernstein

Bernstein Strategy Group

Phone: 202-263-2572

E-mail: jbernstein@jbernsteinstrategy.com