

Federal Policy Overview: Resource to Support Technology Policies

Technology Policy and Next Generation Systems

Here is an array of policies around broadband, privacy, and security that provides helpful context to support the implementation and scaling of technologies within states and districts.

Federal Funds and Programs Supporting Broadband

- The Federal Communications Commission's (FCC's) E-Rate program helps schools and libraries obtain affordable communications technology, Internet access, and internal network connections. Learn more about [E-Rate](#) myths.
- The FCC approved the Connect America Fund (CAF) aimed at providing broadband services to rural areas. Its goal is to reach an additional seven million rural users by 2016. ([State Educational Technology Directors Association \[SETDA\]](#))
- Many schools have been using American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds to support new technology programs. See [SETDA](#) for case studies.
- The Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) started by the U.S. Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration ([NTIA](#)) provides over 4.7 billion dollars in grant money to underserved areas lacking broadband access.

Federal Funding to Support Next Gen Systems

- The Office of Educational Research and Improvement (OERI) holds Technology Evaluation Institutes to “enhance the quality of evaluation.” ([Assessing the Impact of Technology in Teaching and Learning](#))
- The Education Sciences Reform Act of 2002
 - The act gave “the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) the authority to determine voluntary standards and guidelines to assist state educational agencies in developing statewide longitudinal data systems.” ([NCES](#))
 - “The U.S. Department of Education is prohibited from creating a national student unit record data system, but it does have the authority through the Education Sciences Reform Act of 2002 to determine voluntary standards and guidelines to assist SEAs in developing statewide longitudinal data systems (SLDSs). All states are in the process of developing SLDSs.” ([CEDS.gov](#))

Federal Privacy and Security

- The Communications Assistance for Law Enforcement Act (CALEA)
 - “The Order requires these entities to facilitate lawful requests for surveillance of specific communications on their data networks through a combination of new equipment, trained personnel, policies, and procedures, to be in place within 18 months of the

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- filing of the ruling in the Federal Register.”(EDUCAUSE)
- Applies to “facilities-based broadband Internet access providers, including higher education institutions, K-12 schools, libraries, and interconnected Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) service providers.”(EDUCAUSE)
 - Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)
 - Prevents the dissemination of student records to parties outside the school without consent, but allows, with permission, for the information to be used internally in a school. (CDT)
 - FERPA is not meant to limit data sharing for educational purposes, but is rather meant to protect data to ensure it is used appropriately. (CDT)
 - Children’s Internet Protection Act (CIPA)
 - Focuses on the boundaries of appropriate behavior online for minors.