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February 22, 2008

The Honorable Edward M. Kennedy  
Chair, Senate HELP Committee  
United States Senate  
Washington D.C. 20510

The Honorable Michael B. Enzi  
Ranking Member, Senate HELP Committee  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable George Miller  
Chair, House Education & Labor Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Howard “Buck” McKeon  
Ranking Member, House Education & Labor  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senators Kennedy and Enzi and Representatives Miller and McKeon:

**Subject: HEA Reauthorization – Preparing Teachers for Digital Age Learners**

On behalf of the International Society for Technology (ISTE) in Education, I am writing to express our strong support for the “Preparing Teachers for Digital Age Learners” program included in H.R. 4137, The College Opportunity and Affordability Act of 2007. Reaching more than 85,000 education professionals worldwide, ISTE provides leadership and service to improve teaching, learning, and school leadership by advancing the effective use of technology in PK-12 and teacher education. **We encourage the Senate to recede to the House and include the “Preparing Teachers for Digital Age Learners” program in the final bill that reauthorizes the Higher Education Act.**

In today’s climate of economic global competitiveness it is incumbent upon our nation to produce teachers who have the skills and expertise to prepare students who will succeed in this environment. New teachers must enter the classroom with an expertise in integrating technology into classroom learning for raising student learning outcomes, and developing skills for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century such as higher order thinking, learning and problem solving skills, and creativity and innovation.

The Preparing Teachers for Digital Age Learners program would revamp the existing Preparing Tomorrow’s Teachers to use Technology program. This program will provide consortia with two options to address the preparation of our nation’s teachers:

- develop long-term partnerships focused on effective teaching with modern digital tools and content that substantially connect pre-service preparation of teacher candidates with high-needs schools; or
- transform the way schools of education teach classroom technology integration to teacher candidates.

Many teacher candidates are already avid users of technology in their personal lives. However, being facile and dexterous with technology for personal use does not necessarily translate to an expertise in integrating technology into classroom learning.

Again, we encourage the Senate to recede to the House and include the “Preparing Teachers for Digital Age Learners” in the final HEA Reauthorization bill. If you have any questions or if ISTE can be of additional service please do not hesitate to contact me or ISTE’s Director of Government Affairs, Hilary Goldman at 202-861-7777 or [hgoldmann@iste.org](mailto:hgoldmann@iste.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Don Knezek". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Don" and last name "Knezek" clearly distinguishable.

Donald G. Knezek  
Chief Executive Officer