

EIA Program Report for Fiscal Year 2011-12

Coversheet

EIA-Funded Program Name: K-12 Technology Initiative

Current Fiscal Year: 2011-12

Current EIA Appropriation: \$10,171,826

Name of Person Completing Survey and to whom EOC members may request additional information:

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Question 1: History of the program: Please mark the appropriate response (choose one):

This program:

- was an original initiative of the Education Improvement Act of 1984
- was created or implemented as part of the Education Accountability Act of 1998
- has been operational for less than five years
- was funded last fiscal year by general or other funds
- is a new program implemented for the first time in the current fiscal year
- Other

Question 2: What SC laws, including provisos in the current year's general appropriation act, govern the implementation of this program? Please complete citations from the SC Code of Laws including, Title, Chapter, and Section numbers.

Code of Laws:

Proviso 89.33: School Technology Initiative (2010-2011)

Proviso(s): (If applicable. Please make references to the 2011-12 General Appropriation Act as ratified. www.XXXXX)

Proviso 89.33: School Technology Initiative (2010-2011)

Regulation(s):

N/A

Do guidelines that have been approved by the State Board of Education, the Commission on Higher Education or other governor board exist that govern the implementation of this program?

- Yes
- No

Question 3: What are the primary objective(s) or goals of this program? Please distinguish between the long-term mission of the program and the current annual objectives of the program. (The goals or objectives should be in terms that can be quantified, evaluated, and assessed.)

The primary long-term objective of this program is to facilitate the infusion of technology into South Carolina schools. Specific goals and objectives are to provide the following resources for the indicated agencies:

* SCB&CB Division of Information Technology: Network connectivity (E-Rate matching funds), ERate Field Training & Security Project for DIA.

* SC State Library: DISCUS.

* SC Department of Education: eLearning Professional Development; SC Virtual School, Electronic Portfolio.

*SC Educational TV: Digitization Project, ITS Network Services, ETV Video-On-Demand StreamlineSC, ETV Satellite, ETV/ITV Teacher Institutes, Streamline Extension.

* Local Districts and Schools: Distribution to Schools (when funding is available).

Question 4: In the prior fiscal year, 2010-11, what primary program activities or processes were conducted to facilitate the program's performance in reaching the objective(s) as provided in Question 3? What, if any, change in processes or activities are planned for the current year?

Examples of program processes would be: training provided, recruiting efforts made, technical assistance services, monitoring services, etc.

Answers should be specific to the process undertaken at the state level to support the objectives of the program and should be quantifiable. Please include any professional development services provided.

IF the funds are allocated directly to school districts, please indicate any data collected at the state level to monitor how the funds are expended at the local level?

(See previous item.) During the prior fiscal year, the K12 Technology Initiative funded:

- parts of the state virtual school program for middle and high school students;
- licenses to the software for the statewide teacher e-portfolio system for teacher technology proficiency tracking;
- training and marketing teachers' classroom usage of the statewide video-on-demand system, StreamlineSC;
- technology integration and setting up the infrastructure for major changes pursuant to the federal longitudinal data system (LDS) grant.

For the coming year, limited funding will be directed toward

- state's required matching funds for e-Rate, which provides Internet access for all schools and districts
- maintenance of DISCUS as an educational and informational resource for students and all SC residents
- eLearning, SC Virtual School Program

There has been no flow-through funding to districts or schools for the 2008-2009, the 2009- 2010, or the 2010-2011 school years due to budget cuts.

Question 5: In the prior fiscal year, 2010-11, and using the most recent data available, what were the direct products and services (outputs) delivered by this Program?

Examples of program outputs would be: number of teachers attending professional development seminars, number of and passage rates on AP exams, number of students served in the program, improvements in student achievement, retention and graduation.

Bandwidth demand has grown to 2,917 megabits.

The South Carolina Virtual School Program (SCVSP) for middle and high school students was successfully funded by legislation for the 2007-08 year. The SCVSP supports public, private, home schooled, and adult education students seeking supplemental courses to meet their high school graduation requirements. The SCVSP offers courses in seven subject areas including career and technology, fine arts, world languages, English, health/physical education, mathematics, science and social studies. Courses at the SCVSP are taught by state-certified teachers who have not only shown expertise in their fields, but who have also received state sponsored training for teaching online courses. In 2009-10 SCVSP served over 14,207 students.

South Carolina developed the developed the ePortfolio system in 2004 to provide easy to use tools for diagnosing technology abilities, prescribing resources and training to improve technology skills and enhancing learning via an electronic portfolio format for South Carolina's students, teachers and administrators. Among the more than 14,000 teacher who accessed the program in 2009-10, 79 percent demonstrate proficiency in the skills that were assessed. By the 2009-10 school year 25,000 teachers had reached a demonstrated level of proficiency through the ePortfolio system. The number of 8th grade students assessing the program increased by 69 percent. The number of 8th grades demonstrating mastery increased by 58 percent.

K12 DISCUS users statewide have 24/7 office/home access to DISCUS databases and e-books.

In 2009-10, residents obtained over 11.7 million items through DISCUS. This represents a 37% increase over the FY 2007-08 usage level. Historically nearly 70 percent of usage is from the K-12 community.

ETVs StreamlineSC is another immensely beneficial program for SC educators and students that directly enhances teaching and learning by using video-based content. ETV partners with the State Department of Education and districts throughout the state. Video-based standards aligned content is provided along with over 10 thousand clips and a tremendous database of illustration and pictures. All schools can access the service free through funding by the State distributed by the K-12 Technology Initiative. StreamlineSC, and its accompanying administrative interface, OnePlaceSC, contain various management services which allow teachers, school administrators and community leaders to track and evaluate utilization of Streamline resources in the classroom. During the 2009-10 academic year, StreamlineSC had 3.16 million views of video clips.

See also K12 2009 Progress Report at
[https://sck12techinit.sc.gov/sites/default/files/2009ProgressReport020311W
ebQuality.pdf](https://sck12techinit.sc.gov/sites/default/files/2009ProgressReport020311WebQuality.pdf)

Question 6: What are the outcomes or results of this program?

Outcome can be both quantitative and qualitative and should address the program's objectives. Please use the most recent data available:

Examples of outcomes would be: results of surveys, student achievement results, increases in participation, reduction in achievement gaps, loans awarded, textbooks purchased, etc.

Students are accessing research: over 11.7 million resource items were retrieved from DISCUS (online virtual library).

Students are accessing interactive educational websites: there were approximately 673,390 unique page views on Knowitall.org

Educators are using multimedia: over 6,530 educators trained on the integration/use of StreamlineSC during the year.

Educators are improving their technology proficiency using the ePortfolio system with 79 percent of participating teachers moving to the proficient level in the use of technology to enhance learning.

South Carolina became one of only 13 states nationwide to implement a student unique numbering system (SUNS), a factor in our high ranking nationwide. Internet access is available to all districts and schools.

Question 7: Program Evaluations

What was the date of the last external or internal evaluation of this program?

March 2009

Has an evaluation ever been conducted?

Yes

No

If an evaluation was conducted, what were the results and primary recommendations of the most recent evaluation?

The report stated that the General Assembly's continued support for the K12 Technology Initiative Partnership support and funding is needed now more than ever. The current trend of decreasing funds for technology access and implementation could hinder the state's impressive progress. It appears the federal government is considering the elimination or drastic reduction of all direct funding for technology in its budget. South Carolina's representatives must continue to take care of the State's citizens by providing funding to maintain the capacity to train teachers and students in technology which has now become a necessity for daily functionality, communication, and information access. South Carolina students must be technologically proficient in order to acquire 21st century jobs that will keep the state economically healthy. Unless there is a concerted effort to maintain technology funding, South Carolina's economy and communities will pay the price.

Can you provide a URL link, electronic version, or hard copy of this evaluation to the EOC?

Yes

No

If yes, please provide URL link here.

<http://www.ed.sc.gov/agency/offices/tech>

If no, why not?

Question 8:

While EIA revenues increased in 2010-11 over the prior fiscal year and no mid-year cuts were made to any EIA programs, programs and agencies continue to implement conservative budget practices.

Please describe how the program and/or organization would absorb or offset potential EIA reductions totaling 5%, and 10% in the current fiscal year, Fiscal Year 2011-12?

When allocating the K-12 Technology Initiative funds, the Committee will set aside 10% of those funds to hold for budget cuts; thus, programs would be funded at a level that the Committee believes it can manage. In general, each funded program would receive fewer dollars and some programs were cut completely.

Question 9:

If no additional EIA revenues were appropriated to this program in Fiscal Year 2012-13 above the current year's appropriation level, how would the objectives, activities and priorities of this program change?

Please be specific to address the impact to students, teachers or schools. Are there regulatory or statutory changes that you would recommend to the legislature that would assist this program/organization in meeting its objectives?

The K-12 Technology Initiative Committee has no alternative funding resources. If no additional funding above the prior year's level is available, all programs would be sustained at current levels. Reductions in funding translates to passing the costs of Internet connectivity for all districts and schools to the local level and forgoing a portion of the match South Carolina receives for the federal e-Rate funds. Sustained funding would lead to sustained levels of Internet connectivity in K-12 or for the public libraries. Reductions in funding translate to a reduction of library connectivity unless local communities offset state reductions.

The SC State Library would have to preserve DISCUS resources at the existing funding level.

The SC Department of Education would have to maintain the current level development of some resources associated with the statewide longitudinal data system, the ePortfolio, and the South Carolina Virtual School.

SCETV would have to find other resources for delivering video and web content to schools and libraries.

If you want to provide supporting documents or evaluation reports, either reference a website below or email the report directly to mbarton@eoc.sc.gov.