

Key Question Seven:

What can state and local school systems do to make effective use of current and future technology in efforts to provide flexible services for gifted and talented students?

RECOMMENDATION 7.1.

OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH TECHNOLOGY

Local and state education agencies should work together to develop technological resources that will extend learning opportunities for gifted and talented students.

R E C O M M E N D A T I O N S

Key Question Seven: *What can state and local school systems do to make effective use of current and future technology in efforts to provide flexible services for gifted and talented students?*

OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH TECHNOLOGY

RECOMMENDATION 7.1: Local and state education agencies should work together to develop technological resources that will extend learning opportunities for gifted and talented students.

PERSPECTIVE: "In addition, schools and school systems should provide students with instruction in technologies through which they will be able to access an ever-expanding array of services that can enrich their learning experiences. The expansion of technological possibilities within a school system can best be accomplished in collaboration with the Maryland State Department of Education, as well as state and private partnerships."

RATIONALE: America is an increasingly transforming, information-based, technological and global society. Lack of technological skills and resources will inhibit Americans from competing in a global economy and maintaining a high standard of living. The future belongs to those people who incorporate technology into their daily lives. Therefore, technology can no longer remain on the periphery, but must become an integral part of all curricula and become fully embedded in the teaching process.

Accessing, manipulating, and utilizing information are the essential skills necessary for all students to become productive members of a technological society. Special programs and resources must be provided to allow students to develop these skills. For example, telecommunications will change the way educational programs are delivered. The global access provided through Internet and Mednet will allow students to collaborate with students and professionals across the state, the nation, and the world. They will also be able to consult with scientists, professors, politicians and other adults with expertise.

Long-distance learning can provide a challenging curriculum for students who may otherwise not be able to attend specialized classes. Distance learning holds special promise for schools whose student body is small or for students with unusual talents and/or interests.

Age should not be the determining factor in primary access to technology. Elementary and middle school students, as well as high school students, must have access to the latest technology.

Equipping all students, including America's most talented, with current technological knowledge and skills, will allow them not only to compete internationally, but enable them to become effective problem solvers in a technological world.

"...the true promise of technology lies in the classroom. Technology makes it possible for today's schools to escape the assembly-line mentality of the 'factory model' school. With emerging hardware and software, educators can personalize learning."

National Education Commission on Time and Learning
Prisoners of Time