
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR RONNIE MUSGROVE
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: GOVERNOR
FROM: BOYD
SUBJECT: CLASSROOM TECHNOLOGY TASK FORCE
DATE: 4/28/00
CC: FILE

Attached is a copy of the proposed materials that I intend to email and fax to the members of the task force prior to the meeting (tentatively scheduled for May 8, 2000, 3:30 P.M.). This meeting will be conducted over the distance learning network so members may participate close to home.

The computer specifications are self-explanatory. The more advanced system that we can get the better our schools will be. The task force working group recommends providing Apple brand computers for the few schools that use them. I agree.

Currently, the state has approximately 5,700 classrooms that are wired for Internet-access and can accommodate computers immediately with an additional 6,800 classrooms needing both wiring and computers. Assuming enough money is available, the task force should purchase computers for the wired classrooms first. Education recommends an application process for schools and districts to apply for these computers. This is listed under Item IV.

The task force may suggest one of three methods for the purchase of these computers.

1. The ITS Express Products List (EPL) will afford the quickest purchase and instillation, although there may be concerns raised regarding open participation by vendors. ITS assures me that the EPL is open and is offered to a variety of manufacturers and resellers.
2. A Letter of Configuration is modification of the EPL and RFP methods. This will permit manufacturers who are participating to offer lower prices based on the quantity being purchased. Again, this method does not assure completely open participation by all vendors.
3. A Request for Proposals is the most open and competitive method; however, it is lengthy and would require the development of a "fair" evaluation process.

Blake Wilson and I are working on a list of business leaders (i.e., Michael Dell, Bill Gates) and foundations to assist in the procurement of computers for the classrooms. I will have more information on this portion by Tuesday.

Please review these documents and advise by COB Monday, May 1, 2000.