



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 5, 2010

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eTech Ohio Commission Submits Ohio's Educational Technology Plan to Governor Strickland, General Assembly

(Columbus, OH) – eTech Ohio, the state agency charged with supporting a shared network infrastructure, streamlining the production of instructional resources and providing support for P-20 education, all to accelerate academic achievement and opportunities for Ohioans, recently submitted Ohio's *Educational Technology Plan, 2009-2014* to Governor Ted Strickland and the Ohio General Assembly. In accordance to the requirements of H.B. 1, this plan creates an aligned educational technology system that spans preschool to postsecondary education, complies with federal mandates, prepares students to compete and secure jobs in a technologically-advanced economy, and establishes 12 metrics that will measure the success of its strategies such as educator use, student use and efficiency.

"As chairman, and on behalf of the thirteen-member eTech Ohio Commission, I am pleased to present Ohio's State Educational Technology Plan," said Chancellor Eric Fingerhut. "As our educational systems continue to become more efficient and more data responsive, the ever closer relationship between K-12 and higher education will be reflected in the shared technology that provides educators and students full access to current technological supports as well as the innovations of the future."

Ohio's *Educational Technology Plan* identifies ways to positively impact learning and support educators as they work with students of all ages within the P-20 educational continuum and specifically outlines the following objectives for Ohio's educational system:

- Expand and integrate a P-20 longitudinal data system
- Provide virtual learning content and opportunities to all Ohio learners
- Develop advanced student service systems
- Deliver high quality professional development for educators
- Support public broadcasting and media delivery
- Continue to support the implementation of federal programs

The plan details the realities of the education system in Ohio, challenges and barriers P-20 students and educators face, new strategies to advance student achievement, while setting specific goals to measure success and efficiency. The goals add public accountability to the achievement of the technology plan. Data collection for the new metrics has already begun and baseline data along with the state's targets will be released in the first quarter of 2010. In addition, the plan details a means for collaborative partnership with Ohio Public Media affiliates, P-20 Education Technology Partners and the Ohio Educational Technology Community.

“eTech Ohio will work with state, regional and local organizations to find solutions to issues that arise as we integrate technology more fully into the learning environment, and better connect systems and processes along the P-20 continuum,” said Kate Harkin, eTech Ohio Executive Director. “By engaging stakeholders in the education process, we can build and improve upon what we do and how we do it. While we have much work to do, eTech Ohio looks forward to implementing new systems and strategies to enhance learning for all Ohio citizens.”

eTech Ohio will continuously update the plan to adapt to the rapid advancements and breakthroughs in the world of technology. The plan will be available online at www.etech.ohio.gov. eTech Ohio encourages the public to leave statements, comments or written examples on ways to improve education through the innovative use of technology.

About eTech Ohio

eTech Ohio is a national leader in educational technology access and integration. eTech Ohio has made a commitment to serve Ohio citizens through educational initiatives and putting new technology to use for affiliates so that Ohio’s learners will succeed in the schools of today and the world of tomorrow. Visit www.etech.ohio.gov for more information about eTech Ohio.