



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**November 6, 2008**

Contact: Arlyne Alston  
(614) 485-6030  
arlyne.alston@etech.ohio.gov

**eTech Ohio Launches School Facilities Technology Toolkit**  
New Online Tool Will Maximize Technology Planning for New Schools

(Columbus, Ohio) – eTech Ohio, in collaboration with the Ohio School Facilities Commission (OSFC), launched the School Facilities Technology Toolkit today on its website at [www.etech.ohio.gov/go/SchoolTechToolkit](http://www.etech.ohio.gov/go/SchoolTechToolkit). The online resource serves as a reference for school leadership and staff involved with facility projects and advanced learning environments.

“The School Facilities Technology Toolkit is being launched at an opportune time,” said David Barber, eTech Ohio Interim Executive Director. “This tool will prepare many school districts for the new technologies afforded to them as part of an OSFC project.”

The Toolkit includes tutorials, presentations and resources to support a districts’ facility planning process as they prepare for the construction of new or renovated structures in the coming years.

“The Toolkit highlights the way in which the design of a school building can have an impact on the infusion of technology into the daily lives of educators and learners,” said Michael Shoemaker, Ohio School Facilities Commission Executive Director. “It also highlights the importance of the involvement of technology-savvy staff during every phase in the design and construction of a school.”

Additionally, ‘Virtual Facility Tours’ featured in the Toolkit provide school audiences with a panoramic view of the unique and technologically advanced academic environments across the state. For example, one virtual facility tour illustrates how new technology has changed the security system for an entire school district. This innovative technology restricts the access of visitors in the school building. Once the school has obtained a scanned image of a visitors’ photo identification they are given a badge and access to the building.

“The Toolkit illustrates the value of technology leadership,” said Quentin Briggs, eTech Ohio Educational Technology Consultant. “With the help of this resource, district leadership will discover the key people who bring significant insight to creating 21<sup>st</sup> century learning environments.”

eTech Ohio and OSFC will assist school districts in addressing technology planning and professional development needs throughout all phases of the school construction process.

-more-

“The toolkit is a wonderful opportunity for administrators and teachers to see examples of various types of technology systems that are being built into our schools,” Shoemaker said.

**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. For more information about eTech Ohio, visit [www.etech.ohio.gov](http://www.etech.ohio.gov).