



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

January 7, 2005

Dear Education Leader:

I am pleased to announce the release of the National Education Technology Plan, *Toward A New Golden Age in American Education: How the Internet, the Law and Today's Students Are Revolutionizing Expectations*.

Thoughtful input has been received from thousands of students, educators, administrators, technology experts and officials from numerous organizations. The goal is clear – understand how technology can revolutionize education to improve student achievement.

The plan outlines seven key areas for action:

1. Strengthen leadership
2. Consider innovative budgeting
3. Improve teacher training
4. Support e-learning and virtual schools
5. Encourage broadband access
6. Move toward digital content
7. Integrate data systems

As one superintendent described, "The future is now." Without technology, it is impossible for one teacher with thirty students to customize the instruction for each student's individual needs. With technology, personalization of instruction is possible – and happens every day.

E-learning opportunities provide flexibility in schedules, enable new courses and offer highly qualified teachers. New, powerful data systems allow relationships between resources, instructional programs, assessments and outcomes in achievement to be analyzed. We are just beginning to realize the benefits of a systemic approach to transforming education empowered by technology.

America's students are our ultimate constituents. They want us to listen to them. More than 200,000 students in all 50 states participated in developing this visionary report.

I would be pleased if you were to use excerpts from this report in your publications and to share the report with your constituents.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan D. Patrick".

Susan D. Patrick
Director
Office of Educational Technology