

Ed Tech vision statement

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

DRAFT

THE CHALLENGE TO AMERICA

For over a century, America has led the world in science and technology. Americans know that science and technology are the keys to prosperity and to progress; that our bounty is the fruit of our genius. American ingenuity not only sparked the industrial revolution, but turned it as well to a broader purpose, ensuring a profit to the entrepreneur, a fair wage to the worker and an opportunity for every citizen.

Today, the world is in the midst of yet another great technological revolution -- fast moving and broad in scope. It is the information revolution. It is a child searching the archives of the Smithsonian from her classroom in Akron, Ohio. It is a working parent telecommuting from home. It is information and capital crossing borders in nanoseconds. It is whole libraries on microchips. It is new ways of learning, new forms of commerce, new communities of people. It is happening all around us and it is happening now.

The challenge facing our generation is the same challenge that faced the leaders of the industrial revolution: to support technological change while working to ensure that every citizen shares in its rewards. These goals are inseparable -- for today, maximum progress depends on maximum participation. We cannot afford to leave anyone behind.

How do we ensure that everyone has the chance to join in the change? The answer is clear: education is the key. In the next century, more than ever before, what we earn will depend on what we learn. This, then, is our challenge -- to ensure that every child in America receives the education and the skills they need to compete and win in the 21st century.

OUR PLEDGE

As leaders of government, business and education, we accept this challenge and we make this pledge: By the year 2000, we will bring to every child in every classroom in America the technology and training they will need for the next century. By the year 2000 we pledge:

We will connect every classroom in America to the global information superhighway;

We will equip every classroom with modern computers;

We will train every teacher to be technologically literate;

We will create world class educational software to bring forth the best from our students.

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We make this pledge in partnership because we understand that this is a challenge that needs us all. Government and business, parents and teachers can accomplish together what none of us can do alone. This is the American way -- to work together, to do for our children as our parents did for us.

Today we guarantee to our children the technology and the education they will need for their futures. In doing so, we pass on to them the gift of opportunity our parents gave to us when we began. We are confident that in doing right we will make their American century even greater than our own.