

**PRESIDENT CLINTON AND VICE PRESIDENT GORE
PARTICIPATE IN NETDAY
April 19, 1997 (Draft 4/17/97)**

A CHALLENGE TO CONNECT EVERY CLASSROOM TO THE INTERNET. Last year, President Clinton challenged America to connect every classroom and library to the Internet by the year 2000, with modern computers, educational software, and teachers that are as comfortable with a computer as they are with a chalkboard. This effort will ensure that, for the first time in our history, children from rural, suburban, or inner city schools will have the same access to the same universe of knowledge.

AMERICA HAS MADE GREAT STRIDES. To help achieve this goal, the President and Vice President launched a \$2 billion, five-year Technology Literacy Challenge Fund, with \$200 million in funding approved in 1996. In the last two years, the percentage of classrooms connected to the Internet has jumped from 3% to over 14%, and the percentage of schools connected to the Internet has jumped from 35% to 65%.

**TODAY, PRESIDENT CLINTON AND VICE PRESIDENT GORE JOINTLY
ANNOUNCED NEW ADMINISTRATION ACTIONS TO MAKE EVERY CHILD
TECHNOLOGICALLY LITERATE**

- **President Issues Directive to Federal Agencies on “Educational Content” on the Internet.** The President today will issue a Presidential Memorandum directing agencies to expand the availability of federal resources on the Internet that have educational value. For example, NASA allows students to share in scientific pursuits such as exploration of Mars and experiments conducted on the Space Shuttle, and interact in real-time with astronauts.
- **New Technology Grants for Six States.** The President and Vice President are announcing that ten states and territories have been awarded \$11.8 million in grants under the Technology Literacy Challenge Fund. These include Alaska, Connecticut, Kansas, Nebraska, Nevada, South Dakota, Tennessee, Northern Mariana, American Samoa, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs schools. These states join 14 other states that have been awarded a total of \$57 million earlier this year.
- **President Calls on FCC to Approve Plan for “E-rate.”** On May 6, the FCC will vote on a plan to provide discounts to connect schools and libraries to the Internet. This plan would provide up to \$2.25 billion in discounts for schools and libraries per year. Based on this figure, a state such as California would receive [fill].

TODAY'S ANNOUNCEMENT BUILDS ON THE SUCCESS SINCE THE FIRST NETDAY IN 1996. Since March 9, 1996, NetDay has spread across the country like wildfire, ensuring that thousands of schools are wired for the Internet. In 1996, an estimated 250,000 volunteers wired 50,000 schools as a first step towards Internet access. Organizers report that NetDay activities are occurring in more than 40 states on April 19th. In Florida, for example, NetDay volunteers are expected to wire 500 schools, putting Florida half-way to its goal of wiring 100% of its public and private schools.

Draft April 15, 1997

Memorandum for Cabinet Secretaries, Agency Heads

Subject: Expanding access to Internet-based educational resources for children, teachers, and parents

My number one priority for the next four years is to make sure that all Americans have the best education in the world.

One of the goals of my Call to Action for American Education is to bring the power of the Information Age into all of our schools. This will require connecting every classroom and library to the Internet by the year 2000; making sure that every child has access to modern, multimedia computers; giving teachers the training they need to be as comfortable with the computer as they are with the chalkboard; and increasing the availability of high-quality educational content. When America meets the challenge of making every child technologically literate, children in the most isolated rural towns, the most comfortable suburbs, and the poorest inner city schools will have the same access to the same universe of knowledge.

I believe that federal agencies can make a significant contribution to expanding this universe of knowledge. Some agencies have already launched a number of exciting projects in this area. The White House has a special "White House for Kids" home page, with information on the history of the White House. NASA's K-12 initiative allows students to interact with astronauts, and to share in the excitement of scientific pursuits such as the exploration of Mars and Jupiter, and experiments conducted on the Space Shuttle. The AskERIC service, supported by the Department of Education, has a virtual library of more than 900 lesson plans for K-12 teachers, and provides answers to questions from educators within 48 hours -- using a nationwide network of experts and databases of the latest research. Students participating in the Vice President's GLOBE project (Global Learning and Observation for a Better Environment) collect actual atmospheric, aquatic, and biological data and use the Internet to share, analyze, and discuss the data with scientists and students all over the world. With support from NSF, the Department of Energy, and the Department of Defense's CAETI program, the Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory has developed a program that allows high school students to request and download their own observations of the universe from professional telescopes.

We can and should do more, however. Over the next three months, agencies should determine what resources they can make available that would enrich the Internet as a tool for teaching and learning, and produce a first version of their service for students and teachers within in six months.

Agencies should use the following guidelines to support this initiative:

- Agencies should consider a broad range of educational resources, including multimedia publications, archives of primary documents, networked scientific instruments such as

telescopes and supercomputers, and employees willing to serve as tele-mentors or answer student and teacher questions.

- Agencies should expand access not only to the information and other resources generated internally, but by the broader community of people and institutions that it works with and supports. For example, science agencies should pursue partnerships with professional societies, universities and researchers to expand K-12 access to scientific resources.
- Agencies should update and improve their services in response to comments from teachers and students, and encourage educators to submit curricula and lesson plans that they have developed using agency material.
- Agencies should focus on the identification and development of high quality educational resources that promote high standards of teaching and learning in core subjects. Of particular importance are resources that will help students read well and independently by 4th grade, and master challenging mathematics, including algebra and geometry, by 8th grade.
- Agencies should make sure the material they develop is accessible to people with disabilities. Earlier this month, I announced my support for the Web Accessibility Initiative, a public-private partnership that will make it easier for people with disabilities to use the World Wide Web.

I am also directing the Department of Education to develop a "Parents Guide to the Internet," that will explain the educational benefits of this exciting new resource, as well as steps that parents can take to minimize the risks associated with the Internet, such as access to material that is inappropriate for children. The Department of Education will also be responsible for chairing an inter-agency working group to coordinate this initiative, involving teachers and others to ensure that the material is of high-quality and is easily accessible, and promoting awareness among teachers, parents and the public.

Draft April 17, 1997

NETDAY GOES NATIONAL

On March 9th, 1996, President Clinton and Vice President Gore participated in California's NetDay, the first ever "electronic barnraising." The President and Vice President helped catalyze NetDay by convening a group of high-tech industry leaders that agreed to back it. They joined tens of thousands of parents, teachers, engineers, union members and other volunteers to install more than 6 million feet of cable in California's schools in a single day. Companies donated wiring kits, Internet access, hardware and software. Since then, NetDay has spread across the country like wildfire, with major national NetDays occurring on October 19, 1996 and April 19, 1997. Communities in more than 40 states are participating in NetDay on April 19th. Many communities are now beginning to look at issues beyond wiring, such as teacher training. Below are just a few of the states and local communities that have gotten involved in NetDay:

Alabama: Alabama plans to wire all classrooms, media centers and administrative offices in all K-12 public schools by June 1, 1997.

California: On April 19, volunteers from AFL-CIO member unions will be helping to wire schools in the Los Angeles Empowerment Zone, part of the AFL-CIO's commitment to help wire 500 Empowerment Zone schools by the end of 1997. Organizers of Silicon Valley's SmartSchools NetDay estimate that 80 percent of the 496 local public K-12 schools will have installed a high-speed network by April 26, 1997, with the help of 10,000 volunteers. In addition, local businesses have donated 3,000 personal computers to schools.

Connecticut: In Connecticut, 4,000 volunteers have helped wire 600-700 of 1,600 schools and libraries, with support from 100 small businesses, large corporations, and non-profit organizations. Connecticut will be using April 19 to begin organizing a Youth TechCorps, an initiative to identify and recognize Connecticut children with technology skills, and provide them with mentoring, service, scholarship and business opportunities.

Delaware: During last year's NetDay, Delaware volunteers wired 70 out of 300 schools

District of Columbia: 40 of D.C.'s 150 schools were wired in the fall of 1996, and another 30 have signed up to participate in April and May. Companies have donated laptop computers, WebTVs, extensive teacher training, and wiring kits.

Florida: Organizers expect 500 schools to participate in NetDay on April 19th, putting Florida more than half-way to its goal of wiring 100% of its public and private K-12 schools.

Massachusetts: Massachusetts had a very successful NetDay on April 5th, with 450 schools participating. During this school year, nearly 40 percent of the schools have participated, with 14,000 volunteers and \$14 million worth of support from companies.

Michigan: The Detroit Public School District has a very aggressive NetDay plan in place for their 263 schools. Of this number, 70 are already wired, and about 100 plan to wire on April 19th.

New Jersey: New Jersey organizers will be holding a NetDay every Saturday in April, and are planning on wiring 1,000 schools by the end of 1997. Trenton has launched an effort to become the

North Carolina: An estimated 26,000 volunteers wired 900 public and private schools on October 26, 1996, something that would have cost taxpayers \$13.5 million. Charlotte-Mecklenburg, the state's largest system, is wiring 110 of its 130 schools beginning this spring.

Wisconsin: Organizers expect 300-500 schools to participate in NetDay on April 19th.



fielding @ onr.com
04/17/97 04:17:00 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Thomas A. Kalil

cc:

Subject: Disregard last message - this is *FINAL* NetDay release

Schools and Communities "Connect" for NetDay
Organizers Preview April 19, Expect Thousands of K-12 Schools to Join Wiring Effort

SAN FRANCISCO -- April 17, 1997 -- NetDay organizers expect thousands of campuses to join the ranks of "wired" K-12 schools this Saturday, thanks to businesses, parents, educators and community volunteers who are bringing Internet access one step closer to our nation's schools.

"NetDay activities are occurring in more than 40 states this Saturday," said John Gage, NetDay Co-Founder. "It's thrilling to see such an outpouring of volunteer community spirit for our schools. NetDay in America has inspired more than 40 countries worldwide to begin their own NetDays. This Saturday is America's chance to show it cares about the future of children's education."

NetDay is a national volunteer grassroots high-tech barnraising which, in 1996, mobilized the efforts of an estimated 250,000 volunteers in 40 states to wire more than 50,000 classrooms as a first step toward network and Internet access.

"We are seeing more organizations than ever contribute to the NetDay cause, both through donations of equipment and volunteer time," said Michael Kaufman, NetDay Co-Founder. "Of particular note, the AFL-CIO has endorsed NetDay and has committed to help wire 500 Empowerment Zone schools throughout the nation this year. With a network of 18 million members, many with technical expertise, the AFL-CIO's involvement is helping us to reach our goal of wiring every public and private school in the nation."

For more information on NetDay, including volunteering information and instructions on how to organize a NetDay event, access the Web site at <http://www.netday.org> and "click" on your state's map. Faxed information is available through a fax-on-demand service. The toll-free number is 1-800-556-3896.

NetDay was founded in 1995 by John Gage, Chief Scientist of Sun Microsystems, and Michael Kaufman of PBS. The first NetDay was held in California on March 9, 1996. In several states, NetDay activities are ongoing and are held at various times throughout the year. A notable recent example is Massachusetts, which wired 450 schools during a statewide NetDay on April 5, 1997.

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NetDay, April 19, 1997 -- Preview
2-2-2-2-2

Following is a sampling of some of the areas of greatest activity on April 19:

NetDay2000 Florida

Organizers estimate that 500 schools will hold NetDay wiring events April 19. Last October, 1200 schools were wired through NetDay efforts. After April 19, Florida will be more than half-way to its goal of wiring 100% of its public and private K-12 schools; the remaining 1500 schools will be the target for another NetDay scheduled for October '97. NetDay2000 Florida is also expanding its reach to include the wiring of public libraries and community after-school centers.

Contact:

Barbara Samson, NetDay2000 Florida Chairperson, 813-829-2402

Web site: <http://www.netday2000.com>

Wiring Wisconsin

Organizers expect that 300-500 schools will wire on April 19. "Wiring Wisconsin," the organization coordinating NetDay throughout the state, held its first NetDay on November 16, 1996, with 41 schools participating.

Contact:

Bill Cosh, Wisconsin Assn. of School Boards, 608-257-2622

Web site: <http://ww96.k12.wi.us>

NetDay Michigan

Although a total of 120 schools will wire throughout Michigan on April 19, the "hot spot" is Detroit, where 100 schools within the Detroit Public Schools district alone will be wired. Detroit Public Schools, the eighth largest school district in the nation, is one of the largest districts to embrace the NetDay concept.

Contacts:

John Flynn, NetDay Michigan Organizer, 517-373-7888

Michele Edwards, Detroit Public Schools Public Information Mgr., 313-494-2903

Web site: <http://www.leelanau.com/netdaymich>

Louisiana NetDay

Although NetDays in Louisiana have been held at various dates since last fall, organizers estimate that more than 100 schools will hold NetDay wiring events April 19.

Contact:

John Shortess, Louisiana NetDay State Organizer, 504-767-4267

Web site: <http://www.lanetday.org>

-MORE-

NetDay, April 19, 1997 -- Preview
3-3-3-3-3

NetDay NJ

An estimated 200 schools will participate in NetDays throughout the Spring; fifty of these schools will wire on April 19. A focal point for NetDay NJ is the city of Trenton, where every school, public library and community center is participating in NetDay in an effort to become the nation's "first wired city."

Contact:

Tom O'Neill, 908-246-3222

Web site: <http://www.netdaynj.org>

Houston Independent School District

HISD will repeat its October '96 performance by wiring libraries in 80 schools this month; twenty each Saturday in April. For schools already wired, the NetDay concept will be expanded to include "Phase II" NetDay events focusing on teacher training and curriculum development.

Contact:

Lisa Bunse, HISD Media Relations, 713-892-7751

Web site: <http://www.houston.isd.tenet.edu/~nday97/netday2.htm>

Los Angeles Unified School District

LAUSD, a Federal Empowerment Zone district, has eight schools which will hold wiring or planning for future NetDay activities on April 19. LAUSD's NetDay efforts are driven by an unprecedented partnership between AFL-CIO leadership, PacificBell and the LAUSD. The AFL-CIO has committed to help wire a total of 38 schools in LAUSD and many others across the nation for a total of 500 Empowerment Zone schools by the end of 1997.

Contact:

Mary Cervantes, LAUSD Information Technology Specialist, 213-625-5228

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THE TECHNOLOGY LITERACY CHALLENGE FUND (Draft April 16th)

- Today, President Clinton announced that 10 states and territories had been awarded \$11.8 million in grants under the Technology Literacy Challenge Fund, administered by the Department of Education. These states and territories include Alaska, Connecticut, Kansas, Nebraska, Nevada, South Dakota, Tennessee, Northern Mariana, American Samoa, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs schools. These states join 14 other states that have been awarded a total of \$57 million earlier this year.
- President Clinton and Vice President Gore have challenged the nation to assure that all children are technologically literate by the dawn of the 21st century, equipped with the communication, math, science, reading, and critical thinking skills essential for a lifetime of learning and the workplace of the 21st century. They have asked the private sector, schools, teachers, parents, students, and communities to work together to achieve the President's four goals for educational technology:
 - Provide all teachers the training and support they need to help students learn using computers and the Internet;
 - Develop effective and engaging software and on-line learning resources as an integral part of the school curriculum;
 - Provide access to modern computers for all teachers and students; and
 - Connect every school and classroom in America to the Internet by the year 2000.
- To help achieve this goal, President Clinton launched a \$2 billion, 5 year Technology Literacy Challenge Fund, with \$200 million in funding approved by the Congress in 1996. The President has requested \$425 million in funding in his FY98 budget.
- The fund is designed to catalyze state, local and private sector efforts to reach the four national goals for education technology. States are given a great deal of flexibility in their use of the funds. They are asked to develop a strategy that meets the four national goals, pursue collaboration with the private sector, target assistance to poor schools, and report annually to the public on the progress that has been made.

Please use for Net Day Radio Address

**HIGHLIGHTING AMERICORPS NetDay 1997 ACTIVITIES,
REFLECTING ON NetDay 1996 SUCCESSES**

I. CELEBRATING NetDay 1996 SUCCESSES:

**City Year San Jose
San Jose, California**

In February 1996, 55 "City Year San Jose" AmeriCorps members worked with NetDay organizers, school representatives, and community volunteers to prepare seven schools in three school districts to ready them for 2,000 NetDay volunteers. Their work was not glamorous. AmeriCorps members pulled several thousand feet of fiberoptic cable through the ceiling crawl spaces of the schools so that NetDay volunteers could finalize campus hook-up to classrooms. On NetDay in April 1996, the AmeriCorps members worked side-by-side with school faculty, students, parents, San Jose Mayor Susan Hammer, and thousands of corporate volunteers to get Silicon Valley students on-line.

**AmeriCorps Campus Link
Jackson, Mississippi**

AmeriCorps members at 15 university, college, and community college campuses in Mississippi recruit volunteers to work on projects such as NetDay 1996. As an example, Zanda Miller, an AmeriCorps member and Jackson State University student, contacted Blackburn Elementary School about NetDay. When Blackburn's Technology Coordinator was not familiar with the project, Zanda could've left well enough alone. But that's not what AmeriCorps members do. Zanda then volunteered to coordinate Blackburn's NetDay effort, and immediately recruited ten students from Jackson State's technology classes to assist her in the project. Zanda then recruited another 11 volunteers from campus and the community. Zanda's efforts resulted in 21 volunteers who provided 189 hours of service. Zanda herself offered 49 additional hours of service to the project. The result was the wiring of five elementary school classrooms. AmeriCorps in Jackson, Mississippi, is getting things done.

**Project First
Public Education Network**

This National Direct program maintains operating sites in Atlanta, Charlotte, New York, Philadelphia, San Francisco, and Tucson. In 1996, scores of community volunteers and AmeriCorps members either hosted or participated in NetDay activities at each site. On April 19, for NetDay 1997, members from the sites (Boston has now replaced San Francisco) will volunteer in city- or community-wide NetDay events.

II. AMERICORPS LEADERSHIP -- NetDay 1997:

As a perfect kick-off to NetDay 1997, the United Way of America and the IBM Corporation have announced a \$10 million partnership in collaboration with AmeriCorps*VISTA through the year 2000. The partnership is designed to assist neighborhood service organizations in gaining the latest technologies. Through this partnership, AmeriCorps*VISTA members will serve full-time with United Way Team TECH projects in 11 cities, such as Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Denver, Los Angeles, and New York. In these cities, members will work with health and human service agencies in disadvantaged communities. They will assist these local non-profit service organizations in designing technology plans and in gaining the necessary resources to implement them. This will include donations of equipment through IBM, and training for non-profit staff. Members will also set up technology training programs and make them available to their communities.

NetDay 1997 -- Project First

Public Education Network -- Boston, Massachusetts, and Charlotte, North Carolina

On Saturday, April 19 -- NetDay 1997 -- four AmeriCorps members in Boston and eight Corps members in Charlotte will complete the NetDay loop. The wiring of classrooms has previously been completed -- it's now on to the implementation phase and actual link-up to Internet sites.

III. SUGGESTED PARTICIPATION AT PRESIDENT'S RADIO ADDRESS:

The Project First Public Education Network sites offer solid opportunities to highlight quality NetDay programs with AmeriCorps involvement and leadership. Corps members from Charlotte, Boston, or New York are available to attend Saturday's Radio Address.

**HIGHLIGHTING AMERICORPS NetDay 1997 ACTIVITIES,
REFLECTING ON NetDay 1996 SUCCESSES**

Part Two

I. CELEBRATING NetDay 1996 SUCCESSES:

University Of Mississippi

AmeriCorps member Kelly Kellum serves on the University of Mississippi NetDay Committee. Kelly's area is volunteer recruitment, and the result of her work speaks for itself. At five separate school sites, Kelly recruited 260 volunteers who served in their communities for a total of 1,620 hours. The volunteers wired all the schools in two Mississippi counties. Kelly and the Committee are now consulting with nearby school districts to bring about similar results.

II. AMERICORPS LEADERSHIP -- NetDay 1997:

NetDay 1997 -- State of Mississippi

Through the sponsorship of BellSouth, three Netday events at school sites have been scheduled across the state for April 19. Over 30 AmeriCorps members are scheduled to participate as Internet technology is made available to hundreds of additional Mississippi's students.

**HIGHLIGHTING AMERICORPS NetDay 1997 ACTIVITIES,
REFLECTING ON NetDay 1996 SUCCESSES**

Part Three

I. CELEBRATING NetDay 1996 SUCCESSES:

**Plugged In
East Palo Alto, California**

Three AmeriCorps members serve at Plugged In, a community access organization. Plugged In supports NetDay by providing back-up support to organizations and schools interested in participating in the information revolution. The organization hosts Web training workshops and network computers. The Corps members teach computer classes, host a digital after-school program called "Community Kids" and run a computer drop-in center. Their efforts ensure that low-income individuals are able to reap the benefits of NetDay.

For NetDay 1996, volunteers from Plugged In constructed web pages for schools participating in California's "Smart Schools NetDay." The results can now be viewed on-line. Numerous public and private kindergarten-through-12th grade institutions now have web pages providing information to students, parents, faculty, and the community.

II. AMERICORPS LEADERSHIP -- NetDay 1997:

**Mary Holmes College
West Point, Mississippi**

Simeon Weatherby is an AmeriCorps member and student at Mary Holmes College, a rural Mississippi college that does not have a technology department. Nonetheless, Simeon participated in a NetDay event on April 12. While many volunteers perform laborious tasks such as pulling cable through ceiling crawl spaces, Simeon has a spinal condition that prohibits such physical activity. Many of us would have allowed such a condition to prevent us from participating. But Simeon isn't like many of us. He used the NetDay opportunity to observe and perform research for a NetDay he intends to organize this summer at West Clay Elementary School. Simeon simply isn't allowing his physical limitations to deprive public school students of Internet technology.