

Centennial State Libraries

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Opinions and Advice Urgently Needed for New National Education Technology Plan

The Department of Education is drafting a new National Education Technology Plan as required under the No Child Left Behind Act. And the DOE is asking for opinions and advice from stakeholders. Unfortunately, libraries and librarians are not mentioned anywhere in the "Providing Input" document, not even as a role that the participants can select from. Many in the school library community feel it's critical to get libraries included in the education technology plan.

American Association of School Librarians is responding on the matter. In addition, the AASL is alerting all interested library personnel of the need to make state, regional and personal responses as well. You can draft your own comments and/or use the models provided by AASL.

Interested **parties have only until the July 31** to share top issues, opportunities, any policy or regulatory barriers or obstacles, and critical questions that need to be addressed through research.

This will be the nation's third such plan. The DOE has provided a specific outline/questions for providing input at the following urls:

- http://www.nationaletechplan.org/docs_and_pdf/OETInputGuidance2.pdf (PDF document)
- http://www.nationaletechplan.org/docs_and_pdf/OETInputGuidance.doc (MS Word document)

AASL created two documents in response to the DOE's request for input: (1) A model for response and (2) a prioritization of the top ten issues. You can get more information on the Plan and examples of responses from Gene Hainer, 303.866.6730, hainer_g@cde.state.co.us.

Quick Guide to State Information for Seniors and Caregivers (June 2003)

Various agencies of Colorado state government provide resources concerning the issues of seniors and aging as well as for caregivers. This is a quick information guide to selected print and electronic publications as well as web sites maintained by state agencies. Many current and historical print publications on this topic are available to borrow from the State Publications Library. For information contact [Maureen Crocker](#) or visit the [State Publications Library](#) web site.

- STATE GOVERNMENT WEB SITES:
 - "[Governor's Seniors Page](#)" from the Office of the Governor - This page is a first stop resource for links to many web sites including state agency services, federal agencies, and not-for-profit groups and organizations covering all subjects from health and housing to Medicare and social security.
 - "[Division of Aging and Adult Services](#)" of the Colorado Department of Human Services - Links to valuable sites for older adults and persons with disabilities and other special needs including the Senior (55+) Benefits Check-Up, Adult Income and Medical Support, Adult Protection & Elder Rights Programs, Older Americans/Coloradans Act, and much more.
 - "[Colorado's Senior Housing Needs](#)" from the Colorado Division of Housing - A report on the housing needs as Colorado's senior population grows, especially in the rural areas. Common types of housing for seniors are independent living, congregate care, assisted living, and nursing homes.

- "[Senior Health/Medicare](#)" from the Colorado Division of Insurance - The Senior Health Insurance Assistance Program helps people enrolled in Medicare with questions about health insurance. Topics addressed include Medicare, Medigap, Medicare HMO's, Medicaid assistance for people on Medicare, and long-term care insurance.
- "[Health Facilities Division Information Center](#)" of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment - An electronic listing with searching capabilities for many health facilities such as assisted living residences, home health agencies, hospices, and nursing homes.
- "[Publications and Guidelines from the Health Facilities Division](#)" of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment - Main feature of this page is the ability to search on a facility name for detailed information on status, occurrences, and complaints. Other links are to documents relating to occurrence reporting, end-of-life care, restraint regulations, assisted living checklist, medications, and long term care.
- "[Fact Sheets on the Elderly](#)" from the Colorado State University Cooperative Extension - Brief, overview of information related to the elderly on such topics as fraud, safe housing, Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, preventing falls, alcohol abuse, and depression.
- Suggestions for Searching the State Publications Online Catalog
 - For records of print publications to borrow and/or links to electronic publications, search our library catalog at: [Colorado State Publications Library](#)
 - The following are some suggested subject headings: Aged, Aged Services, Aged Housing, Aged Abuse, Aged Care, Aged Long-term care, Aged Medical care, Alzheimer's disease, Assisted living: search "congregate housing", Falls (Accidents) in old age, Health facilities, Insurance Long-term care, Medicare, Nursing homes
 - The following are some suggested keywords: Aging, Assisted living, Colorado Commission on Aging, Elderly, Fraud, Hospice, Senior
 - by the State Publications Library, Denver, Colorado
Contact: Maureen K. Crocker, crocker_m@cde.state.co.us

Resolution Affirming School Libraries' Role in Education Passed by ALA

A resolution affirming school libraries' role in education was recently passed by ALA

Council with a unanimous vote. AASL, ALA's school library association, is in the process of taking steps to implement the actions requested in the final sections. Some actions may involve state associations making local contact with leaders to convey appropriate messages.

"ALA Resolution: School Libraries and Librarians are Critical to Educational Success" refers to elimination of school librarians and support staff as a cost-savings measure; numerous research studies that show a high correlation between exemplary school library programs led by a certified school librarian and student achievement on state standardized tests; and literacy skills taught and supported by school library programs. It states that the ALA Council will convey to various elected and appointed officials and organizations the urgent need to support and maintain school library programs and certified school librarians and encourage them to pass this concern along to their state affiliates, as well as influence state legislation requiring adequate funding and appropriate staff of school libraries. (Editorial comment: Unable to find the original document on the ALA web site. Sorry.)

Ruling on Filtering Internet Could Widen Digital Divide

Internet equity advocates are criticizing Monday's US Supreme Court decision to allow the government to require libraries that receive federal tech funding to install Internet filters. The critics argue that minorities and low-income families, who are statistically more likely to have Internet access only via libraries, will potentially find it harder to access information inadvertently blocked by filters. "It is yet another obstacle for low-income Americans to having the same kind of access and the same kind of information resources and awareness that their more well-to-do peers have," said the Benton Foundation's Andy Carvin. According to Judith Klug of the American Library Association, many libraries intend to reject federal tech dollars in order to avoid placing filters on their Internet computers -- but libraries in low-income areas will find it very difficult to make such a choice. Klug adds that the law puts librarians "in a position of punishing people who are poor." SOURCE: Chicago Sun-Times; AUTHOR: Anick Jesdanun, Associated Press. See also: [Many libraries Will Skip Grants to Avoid Using Net Filters](#)

21st Century Skills Should Include Information Literacy

AOL Time Warner Foundation released the findings of a national opinion survey on 21st century literacy conducted by the firms Lake Snell, Perry and Associates and Market Associates Strategies. The foundation commissioned the survey to help identify the new literacy needs of today's youth and inform the direction of philanthropy, public policy and program development. The survey found that a significant majority of respondents place 21st century literacy skills, such as technology competency, critical thinking, media literacy and communication skills, at the top of education priorities. Ninety-two percent of respondents think that young people need different skills today than they did 10-20 years ago, while only 42 percent felt that young people are being taught the critical skills needed for success in the

21st century, either in school or in other settings. Almost 40 percent of respondents think American youth are "behind" young people from other countries in obtaining 21st century skills. The foundation also announced \$3 million in new grants for initiatives that support the dissemination of these skills. SOURCE: [AOL Time Warner Foundation](#)

Software Helps Immigrants Learn English

Hector Mendiola, Latino activist and former teacher, teamed up with Utah State University's extension office to create Computer-Assisted Literacy for Non-English Speakers (CALFNES). The computer-based language assistance program, which cost about \$10,000 to develop, contains 99 lessons with speaking, listening and writing activities. Computer-based teaching has several advantages for immigrants; for example, they can learn at their own pace and not be embarrassed by slow progress in relation to other students. It also reduces the stigma of being undocumented. In addition, students learn basic computer skills, including the use of email to receive their assignments. Moderators such as Mendiola serve as tutors, reviewing homework and doing verbal exercises with students. "There's nothing that replaces a live teacher," says Logan High School principal Charles Nelson, who has overseen several language programs. He has found the best solution for his students is a combination of both instructor-led and computer-based teaching. SOURCE: [The Salt Lake Tribune](#); AUTHOR: Tim Sullivan

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Frindle: A Favorite Book May Become a Movie, Solicits Help

Corner Booth Pictures are preparing to produce a feature film adaptation of Andrew Clements' award-winning and well-loved book "Frindle." Though we've known from the beginning the power of the story, we would have hesitated to say that it might actually change lives. When a Spokane teacher shared with us her experience with a troubled student, though, we realized there was more to this than even we had thought. You can read her story at [FrindleMovie.Com](#).

It's rare to find a story like Frindle that has such power not only to inspire, but also to entertain. Despite that, and despite the recent success of Holes, we know there is a certain amount of skepticism among feature film distributors about simple stories without large-scale action and elaborate special effects. To address that skepticism and expand our communication with people who will want to follow the process of creating "Frindle, the movie," we're attempting to extend significantly the reach of our network and mailing list. We want to find out how many teachers, kids and parents have been exposed to "Frindle."

We'd love to have you join our email list (we'll respect your privacy) and if you've used "Frindle" in the classroom (editorial comment—or, one assumes, libraries), we'd love to have you fill out a very brief survey. The sign up and survey can be found at FrindleMovie.com.

IMLS Announces Colorado Federal Grants

Early next week the Office of Public and Legislative Affairs at IMLS will announce to the press Colorado's LSTA grant for FY 2003. The grants are awarded under the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) and are made to each State according to a population-based formula; the State's Library Administrative Agency administers the funds. Colorado will receive \$2,378,206. The state provides at least \$1.00 for every \$2.00 of federal support.

The Colorado State Library uses a portion of its federal funds to support the statewide Colorado Virtual Library Network, providing access to library and information resources from over 250 Colorado libraries as well as web sites about Colorado and web sites that specifically meet Colorado's K-12 content standards.

Colorado also uses federal funds to develop quality school libraries. Research shows that high quality school libraries contribute to improved student achievement scores. Libraries will continue to use these federal funds to invest in technology. Information available via the Internet has increased. So, too, have visits to the library. Public libraries remain the number one point of online access for people without Internet connections at home, school, or work—95% of them provide free public access to the Internet. Colorado research shows that 67% of people using computers in public libraries have no other access to the Internet or World Wide Web.

For additional information, E-Mail: [B. McCune](mailto:B.McCune)

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