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May 16, 2001

TechMIS Subscribers

FROM: Charles Blaschke

SUBJECT: Bush Proposed Budget, E-Rate Update, and State Profile Updates

The Washington Update includes the following items:

- the final Bush education budget proposal which over the last month has been hotly debated in both the Senate and House with final nonbinding budget resolutions to be finalized shortly; the final budget will go through appropriation hearings most likely this summer; the winners will likely be increased funding for annual student testing, the Reading First Initiative, and IDEA Special Education funding;

- the Bush proposal to perform radical surgery on the E-Rate program which if passed, would likely result in the program being negatively impacted if not killed;

- FCC proposed changes in the manner in which limited funding for internal connections would be prorated because of unexpected high demand requested from applicants which could have many unintended consequences for both applicants and vendors;

- defining and enforcing sanctions regarding what is "adequate yearly progress" under Title I is proving to be the Achilles heel of the Title I accountability proposed revisions;

- new guide produced by former New Standards Project for speaking and listening standards for pre-K-3 has been released and is likely to be used extensively by states and districts;

- increased use of education technology and vocational education likely to occur as the result of congressional and industry pressures;

- Bush Administration anticipates a large growth in Federal Bureau of Prisons population over the next five years which could provide some opportunities for vendors of "automated" instructional systems.

This mailing also includes updates on numerous states focusing on technology funding and initiatives, legislative action, and state assessment changes of interest to technology vendors. The primary sources of information were reports provided by state technology coordinators to SIIA and to us, discussions with state technology coordinators and other knowledgeable state officials and secondary media sources, such as Education Week and eSchool News. As always, if any questions arise please feel free to contact me directly.