Governor's Proposal on Education Technology AB 1942 (Reyes)

Presented To
Assembly Budget Subcommittee
No. 2 on Education Finance

Education Technology

GOVERNOR'S PROPOSAL	LAO PROPOSAL
Technology Grant Program ● $175 million to (1) support on-line AP courses and (2) put more computers in schools with fewest computers. *LAO Issues* ● Requires no local buy-in. ● Does not require approved technology plan prior to spending funds. ● Provides computers to schools which have invested the least in computers, and have the lowest capacity to maintain them. ● Research shows you cannot just buy computer need; integrated approach—computers, connectivity infrastructure, maintenance, and staff development integrated into the curriculum. ● Cost of computers less than half of the lifetime costs of operating a computer.	● **Support On-Line AP Courses**. Have Secretary of Education report on need; provisionally set aside $10 million for this purpose. ● **Education Technology Revolving Loan Fund.** Provide interest free, subsidized loans to schools. Requires local buy-in. ($160 million) ● **E-Rate Grant Program.** Provide start-up grant support to schools/districts to aid in the application for federal E-rate funding. ($5 million)
Who Should Administer Program? ● Secretary for Education proposed to administer grant program. *LAO Issue* ● Secretary is a policy advisor while the department administers programs.	● Department of Education should administer alternative programs.

Technology Staff Development ● $25 million for CSU to train teachers to use technology in the classroom. *LAO Issues* ● "One size fits all" diminishes districts' ability to meet local needs. ● Adds new program rather than expanding existing ones that serve similar purposes and appear to be effective. ● Unclear why CSU should administer. ● The CSU has already begun implementation without legislative authorization. ● Training premature for schools which would receive the Governor's Technology Grants—need computers and software prior to staff development.	● Re-direct funds to a nontargeted staff development block grant which would allow districts to integrate technology staff development with other staff development efforts.
Funding Source ● One-time funding, $100 million of 1999-00 funding and $100 million of 2000-01 funding. *LAO Issue* ● Governor unnecessarily increases Proposition 98 level in the budget year, and all subsequent years.	● Use $200 million in one-time 1999-00 funding.