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Education Commission of the States Releases Brief on Incorporating Technology into Early Education

Technology can strengthen communication channels and bring learning-rich resources to parents

Denver—The Education Commission of the States (ECS) released Technology in Early Education, the fourth of six Progress of Education Reform briefs that will be published in 2012.

Digital media and interactive technologies have fast become an integral part of many young children’s’ lives. Whether traditional television or newer technologies such as applications on personal tablets, children are spending more time with screen media compared to 2005. How can state policymakers, district leaders, and teachers take advantage of this change to strengthen early learning?

This brief outlines two starting points: boosting teachers’ comfort and effectiveness with interactive media, and partnering with public libraries. To fully develop coordinated systems of birth-to-five programs, the brief describes how states can do even more:

- Take advantage of early childhood advisory councils
- Take stock of where and how technology is currently being used
- Focus on library partnerships and professional development for educators
- Recognize the power of open access to communications technology and media.

Read this issue of The Progress of Education Reform, guest authored by Lisa Guernsey, Director of the Early Education Initiative at the New America Foundation, to learn more about leveraging technology to benefit our youngest learners.

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About ECS

ECS is the only nationwide, nonpartisan organization that works directly with governors, legislators, chief state school officers, higher education officials, and other leaders across all areas of education—from PreK to college and the workforce. Since 1965, we have tracked policy, translated research, provided unbiased advice, and created opportunities for state policymakers to learn from one another. ECS is located in Denver and maintains the nation’s most extensive clearinghouse on education policy.

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