

This project is being funded by a Dept. of Education contract. * * * * *

Participating State Education Agencies will realize the following benefits: ...

- actual training materials generated from the project, with duplication rights for intrastate dissemination.
- closer working relationship with national, regional and local education groups and associations
- microcomputer program data base
- an information resource for locating materials and people to assist in problem solving
- increased capacity to act as facilitators of technology use
- visibility through promotional materials that carry state education agency information
- materials to establish in-service programs for teachers on the use of technology to teach basic skills.

Who is working on Project BEST?

The Association for Educational Communications and Technology (AECT) is the prime contractor for Project BEST. AECT has formed a consortium with two subcontractors—Applied Management Sciences, Inc. (AMS) and the Maryland Instructional Television Division (MITV). Each organization brings its special area of expertise to the undertaking.

A national advisory board (see roster on back cover) has been established to assist in the design of the project, to aid in its development, and to plan for the ongoing use of its products and services after the project concludes.

Dr. Henry Ingle is directing the project from AECT's National Office in Washington, D.C. under the aegis of AECT Executive Director, Howard Hitchens. Mr. Lewis Rhodes is serving as Associate Director for AMS; Dr. Dolores Deardorff is Associate Director for MITV, and Ms. Ann Erdman and Dr. Frank Withrow are overseeing the effort for the U.S. Department of Education.

Project BEST Advisory Board

The following organizations have agreed to serve on the Advisory Board of Project BEST to assist in the identification and implementation of project goals.

(William Spady)
 (Spady, sociologist, involved in mastery learning D/B ed nationwide)
 American Association of School Administrators
 Association for Educational Data Systems
 Association of State Supervisors of Mathematics

Basic Skills National Technical Assistance Consortium/CEMREL, Inc.

The College Board

Council of Chief State School Officers

Education Commission of the States

ERIC Clearinghouse on Information Resources

International Reading Association (whole language)

Joint Council for Educational Telecommunications

National Association of State Educational Media Professionals

National Association of State English and Reading Supervisors

National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education

National Council of Teachers of English

National Council of Teachers of Mathematics

National Governors' Association (Carnegie Plan)

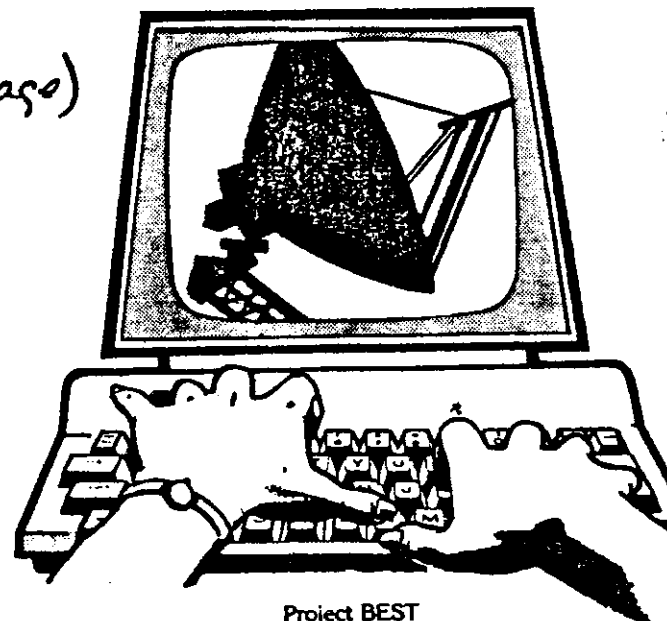
National Science Foundation

Steering Committee of State Basic Skills Coordinators

HHS 2/12/82 computer printout lists Project BEST as a National Education Association Contract in amount of \$855,282.

Basic Education Skills through Technology

READING • WRITING • MATHEMATICS
LANGUAGE ARTS



Project BEST
 Association for Educational Communications
 and Technology
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Project BEST (Basic Education Skills Through Technology) is a cooperative effort involving both the federal, state, and local governments and the private sector in the planning and use of modern information technologies to improve the effectiveness of basic skills teaching and learning. It is funded by the Division of Educational Technology of the U.S. Department of Education. BEST is a twenty-one month contract, which began in November, 1981.

What is the purpose of Project BEST?

A primary goal of the project is to create a network of states and professional organizations that will encourage the exchange of ideas, people and information, and that can continue to grow and to function even after the work of the project is completed.

Specifically, the project will provide training and technical assistance to State Education Agencies (SEAs) in the areas of basic skills and technology. Increasing the abilities of SEAs to utilize advanced telecommunications technology and adding to their awareness of successful applications in the field will, in turn, strengthen state efforts to improve Local Education Agency and school capabilities.

How will Project BEST accomplish its goals?

The project staff will develop a variety of products, services, and linkages with people and resources in the public and private sectors to accomplish the above goals. They will include:

- written materials on the use of technology in basic skills education
- audio-visual teleconferencing to present information on successful applications in the field
- an electronic mailbox to encourage information sharing
- a data bank that will include information on software; names of local experts available to assist SEAs and local school districts; and bibliographies of materials on educational technology, the use of technology in education, and the application of technology to basic skills education.

Technology will not only be the focus of the project, but also the means by which sharing and gathering of information will take place.

Satellite teleconferencing and telecommunication linkages will be used for rapid exchange of information; *microcomputers* will be used to access various data bases, and the *electronic mailbox* will be used to assist with the specific needs of members of the network.

What are the planned outcomes of Project BEST?

Outcomes can be expected at two levels. At the state level there will be:

- an inventory of the resources including hardware, software, and experts available in the state to assist Local Education Agencies and schools in the selection and use of technology.
- a team of SEA experts who can provide technical assistance and training for Local Education Agencies and school personnel.
- an information base that will enable states to make effective use of block grants to support basic skills education and purchases of technology.
- familiarity with techniques and materials that rely on technology for use in inservice training programs.

At the national level, working jointly with technology and basic skills professional associations, data bases are to be made available on technology supported education in reading, communication skills, and mathematics. A series of written and audio-visual training materials is also to be made available.

In addition, the State Team approach and the communications network with professional associations and other groups established by the project will serve as a model for the states in implementing similar efforts in other areas of education, or in such program areas as health, human services, housing, transportation, etc.



MODEL STATE DATA BANK AND MANAGEMENT INFO SYSTEM TO IMPLEMENT LIFELONG LEARNING/COMMUNITY RE-EDUCATION (BACKDOOR SOCIALISM) UNDER UMBRELLA OF SCHOOL DISTRICT USING HANDBOOK X OF NCES SERIES "COMMUNITY INFO IN EDUCATION." THIS IS UNITED NATIONS PLAN

Every state will be solicited to participate in the project. Initially the project staff will contact each Chief State School Officer to inform him/her of the project and to request his/her State's cooperation. Follow-up mailings will also be made to the state offices for basic skills education and educational technology.

Twenty states will be accepted for participation by early April, 1982.

What are the responsibilities/benefits for states that are selected to participate?

State Education Agencies that are selected for the project will each form a State Team of individuals who can benefit from participation, and who can contribute to the development of project materials and to the expansion of the state agency capabilities to deal with educational technology. The designated Team Leader will participate in a training program sponsored by Project BEST.

People representing the following units/organizations may be appropriate to include in the State Team:

- educational media or technology
- basic skills coordinators
- educational management, administration, and policy
- dissemination, library and information sciences
- in-service training
- special projects or computer coordinators
- teachers' and professional associations
- intermediate school districts
- institutions of higher education involved in pre-service and in-service teacher training

In addition to appointing a State Team, participating states will be asked to provide equipment needed for the electronic mailbox and teleconferences; to participate in the development of training materials and agree to use those materials in ongoing in-service programs; and to share with other members of the network, information about relevant state resources.