AN ACT

Establishing the Science Technology Partnership Program;
establishing the Science Education Innovation Grants Program;
and providing for State grants.

The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania hereby enacts as follows:

Section 1. Short title.

This act shall be known and may be cited as the Science Technology Partnership Act.

Section 2. Definitions.

The following words and phrases when used in this act shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

"Department." The Department of Education of the Commonwealth.
"Higher education institution." Any public or private two-year or four-year or higher postsecondary institution in this Commonwealth that has been accredited at the college level by an accrediting agency recognized by the Federal Secretary of Education.

"Nonpublic school." A nonpublic kindergarten, elementary school or secondary school at which the compulsory attendance requirements of the Commonwealth may be met and which meets the applicable requirements of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Public Law 88-352, 78 Stat. 241).

"Partnership." A science technology partnership.

"Program." The Science Technology Partnership Program.

"Public school." Any school owned or operated by a public school district established under the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, including any school established under Article XVII-A of the Public School Code of 1949.

"Science technology educational organizations." A nonprofit corporation as defined in section 510(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (Public Law 99-514, 26 U.S.C. § 1 et seq.) that provides science, environmental science and technology instruction to public schools, nonpublic schools and school districts in this Commonwealth.

"Scientific or technical equipment." Technical or electronic equipment used in teaching science courses, including laboratory equipment. The equipment may include equipment that is not routinely used in the teaching of science but that is commonly used in the workplace and the fields of health, environment, scientific research, biology, chemistry, geology or other earth sciences, physics or any other scientific field.
"Secretary." The Secretary of Education of the Commonwealth.

Section 3. Science Technology Partnership Program.

(a) Establishment.--The Science Technology Partnership Program is established. The purpose of the program shall be to improve science education in public schools, school districts and nonpublic schools that are members of science technology partnerships by:

(1) Making scientific or technical equipment available to students.
(2) Augmenting the science curriculum.
(3) Providing additional professional development opportunities to educators in the sciences.

(b) Administration.--The department shall administer a grant program that awards grants to qualified higher education institutions that are members of the partnerships.

(c) Criteria for funding.--To implement the program, the department shall request proposals from higher education institutions that are members of partnerships and may award grants to such institutions that meet all of the following criteria:

(1) Have established a partnership as defined in section 4 and provided a copy of the partnership agreement to the department.
(2) Demonstrate how the partnership will make science technology equipment available to students enrolled in public and nonpublic schools that are partnership members.
(3) Demonstrate how the partnership will augment the science curriculum of public and nonpublic schools that are partnership members.
(4) Demonstrate how the partnership will provide
additional professional development opportunities to
educators employed by public and nonpublic schools that are
partnership members.

(5) Have adopted a proposed budget describing the
scientific and technical equipment that will be purchased or
leased with grant funds.

(d) Grant awards.--The department shall award grants in
amounts not to exceed $200,000 per subject area, including
chemistry, biology, physics, earth and space, for each qualified
applicant higher education institution. Grants shall be used for
the purchase or lease of scientific or technical equipment and
for the development of programs of instruction for members of a
partnership.

Section 4. Science technology partnerships.

(a) Establishment.--A higher education institution may form
a partnership with three or more public and nonpublic schools or
school districts.

(b) Partnership agreement.--The higher education institution
and the public schools, nonpublic schools or school districts
shall enter into a written agreement defining the
responsibilities of the partnership members. The agreement shall
include all of the following:

(1) The responsibilities of the higher education
institutions in providing services to each partnership member.

(2) The responsibilities of the public schools,
nonpublic schools or school districts in coordinating with
the higher education institution.

(3) A description of the scientific or technical
equipment that shall be provided to each partnership member.

(4) A description of the program of instruction that
(5) The courses of science instruction and grade levels that will be augmented by scientific or technical equipment through the partnership and how scientific or technical equipment will be used to augment such courses of instruction.

(6) The manner in which access to scientific or technical equipment will be provided to students and teachers.

(7) The professional development activities that will be provided to science teachers employed by partnership members.

(c) Forward to department.--To be eligible to participate in the program, a partnership must forward a certified copy of its partnership agreement to the department.

Section 5. Powers and duties of department.

The department shall promulgate rules, regulations and procedures necessary to implement the program.

Section 6. Annual report.

The secretary shall annually submit a report on the program to the Governor, the chairman and minority chairman of the Education Committee of the Senate and the chairman and minority chairman of the Education Committee of the House of Representatives. The report shall include all of the following information:

(1) A description of the types of the partnerships created.

(2) The number of higher education institutions, public schools, nonpublic schools and school districts participating in the program as members of the partnerships.
The number of public and nonpublic school students participating in the program.

The dollar amount of grants awarded to each higher education institution and a summary of the institution's expenditures on services related to the partnership.

An assessment of the educational impact of the program on the scientific knowledge of students participating in the program.

Section 7. Science Education Innovation Grants Program.

(a) Establishment.--The Science Education Innovation Grants Program is established. The department shall administer the Science Education Innovation Grants Program.

(b) Grant recipients.--Science Education Innovation Grants shall be awarded by the department to school districts, higher education institutions and science technology educational organizations that provide innovative science, environmental science and technology programs with hands-on, inquiry-based learning for students in public schools, school districts and nonpublic schools. No more than 10% of the total grant funding awarded in any one school year may be awarded to a school district, higher education institution or science technology educational organization.

(c) Contents of application.--In its application to the department for grant funding, an eligible grant recipient under this section shall include:

(1) The public schools, school districts and nonpublic schools where the program of instruction will be provided.

(2) A description of the program of instruction and grade levels of students that will be provided instruction.

(3) A description of any scientific or technical...
equipment that will be used to augment instruction.

(4) If applicable, the manner in which access to scientific or technical equipment will be provided to students and teachers.

(5) If applicable, the professional development activities that will be provided to science teachers.

(6) The qualitative and quantitative assessment measures that will be used to determine whether the program has improved the academic performance of students receiving the program of instruction.

(d) Information.--The department shall disseminate to all public schools, school districts and nonpublic schools information about the innovative science, environmental science and technology programs awarded grants under this section so that these programs may be replicated by public schools, school districts and nonpublic schools.

(e) Annual report.--The secretary shall annually submit a report on the Science Education Innovation Grants Program to the Governor, the chairman and minority chairman of the Education Committee of the Senate and the chairman and minority chairman of the Education Committee of the House of Representatives. The report shall include all of the following information:

(1) The number, names and amounts of grants awarded to public schools, nonpublic schools and public school districts, higher education institutions and science technology educational organizations receiving grants.

(2) The number of public and nonpublic school students participating in the program.

(3) For each grant recipient, a summary description of its innovative science education program and any qualitative
or quantitative academic results due to the program.

(4) An assessment of the impact of the grants on the scientific knowledge of students participating in the program.

Section 20. Effective date.

This act shall take effect immediately.