

PRELIMINARY IMPLEMENTATION PLANS  
THE FLORIDA EDUCATION COMPUTER NETWORK

The Commissioner of Education has appointed a Steering Committee to make recommendations regarding the network. This Committee includes representatives from the school districts, the community colleges, the State University System, and the Department of Education. (See Appendix A.)

The Department of Education will assume responsibility for coordination and communication for the network. In communicating with districts and institutions, the Department will contact the following groups:

School District Council on Comprehensive  
Management Information and Assessment Systems.

Computer Advisory Committee for Community  
Colleges.

Policy boards for regional data centers of  
the State University System.

Within the Department of Education, the Management Information Systems Coordinating Committee will keep abreast of topics relating to the network and will consider these at regular committee meetings. Correspondence pertaining to the network may be directed to Fred Daniel, Room 125 MJ, Department of Education, Tallahassee, Florida 32304.

Incremental Approach to Network Development

The development of the network, which is a long-term proposition, will be pursued using an incremental approach. In other words, there is no stipulation at the outset as to which school districts, community college districts, or institutions will be participating. These decisions will evolve locally, based upon the needs of individual agencies, as well as the economic exigencies which are brought to bear.

Pilot Projects

The general approach to network development will be through pilot projects, with some beginning in 1975-76. The Department of Education will encourage such projects with various combinations of school districts, universities, and/or community colleges participating. Results of pilot projects will be reviewed by the Steering Committee for the network and will be communicated to representatives of school districts, community colleges, and State universities.



Potential pilot projects will be identified through the Steering Committee, as well as through other sources. Staff members in the Department of Education will follow-up on leads for potential pilot projects. The key factor in establishing a pilot project is the interest of the potential participants. No official action by the Department of Education or the Steering Committee is required for the establishment of pilot projects.

### Technical Committees

Ad hoc technical committees will be appointed to make recommendations on technical issues relating to the network. Such committees will be established on recommendation of the Steering Committee or the Department of Education. Each committee will be established for a specific period of time to deal with a specific problem. Examples of problems which might be considered by technical committees include (1) communication protocols, (2) programming languages for common software, (3) standards for documentation, and (4) charging algorithms.

### Development of Common Software

During 1975-76, the needs for common software among school districts and community colleges will be explored. The 1976 legislative budget of the Department of Education will include a request for funds to support systems groups in 1976-77. Such software teams will be responsible for developing specifications, programming, and implementing systems in colleges and school districts. Such systems should be responsive to the information requirements of administrators and Board members. They will also establish common data bases for use at the State level.

### Financing the Network

In general, the cost of computer services will be paid by persons using the services, while the cost for development and coordination will be either prorated among potential users or budgeted from other sources.

Computing centers under the jurisdiction of school districts, community colleges, or the State University System will remain under those jurisdictions. There will be no State supervision of charging schedules. However, user participation in establishing charging policies is encouraged.

As funds become available, systems groups will be supported by the Department of Education. Also, individual school districts or community colleges may wish to join together in support of systems groups.





APPENDIX A

FLORIDA EDUCATION COMPUTER NETWORK  
STEERING COMMITTEE

School District Representatives

Dr. Leonard Britton, Associate Superintendent for Instruction,  
Dade County School System

Mr. L. P. McElroy, Finance Officer, St. Johns County School System

Mr. Everett Yarbrough, Associate Superintendent for Planning and  
Systems, Leon County School System

Community College Representatives

Dr. Herman A. Heise, President, Indian River Community College

Mr. Jerry H. Leonard, Dean of Business Affairs, St. Petersburg  
Junior College

Dr. Robert H. McCabe, Executive Vice President, Miami-Dade  
Community College

State University System Representatives

Mr. Homer S. Fisher, Associate Executive Vice President, Florida  
State University

Dr. Harold P. Hanson, Executive Vice President, University of  
Florida

Dr. Kenneth M. Michels, Vice President for Academic Affairs,  
Florida Atlantic University

Department of Education Representatives

Mr. Pete Millett (Chairman), Deputy Commissioner for Administration

Dr. Fred Daniel (Secretary), Director of Strategy Planning  
Management Information Systems