



STATE OF FLORIDA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
TALLAHASSEE 32304

RALPH D. TURLINGTON
COMMISSIONER

WM. CECIL GOLDEN
ASSOCIATE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER

September 10, 1979

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Representatives of Educational Computing Consortia

FROM: Fred Daniel, Director
Fred Daniel
Strategy Planning and Management Information Systems

SUBJECT: Your letter regarding continuation of the Educational
Computing Project staff and project funds

Commissioner Turlington was very pleased to receive your letter regarding the Educational Computing Project. It represents an unsolicited testimony to the effectiveness of the project staff.

The Commissioner asked me to respond to your letter and provide information on future plans. As you may know, the Department of Education has already recommended--and the legislature has approved--a fourth year of staffing for the computing project. This extension will provide monitoring of contracts which extend beyond the current fiscal year. Technical assistance will also continue.

Further support for projects has not been considered. Computing has become an essential aspect of educational administration. Thus, it is a function for which districts must budget, just as they budget for utilities or debt service. The 1977 Legislature felt that special help was needed to provide some districts and institutions with additional capabilities to achieve the equitable distribution of computing on a statewide basis. Therefore, a three-year project was started.

It was my hope that each district could have an equitable computing capability at the end of the three-year period. It now appears that this will not be the case, although significant progress has occurred. It is our intention to report this situation to the legislature, providing details on the extent to which each district and institution has achieved an equitable computing capability. It is possible that the legislature will wish to continue support for equitable distribution.

The 1979 General Appropriations Act contains two new provisos relating to educational computing:

One calling for a study of the role, feasibility and cost effectiveness of instructional computing.