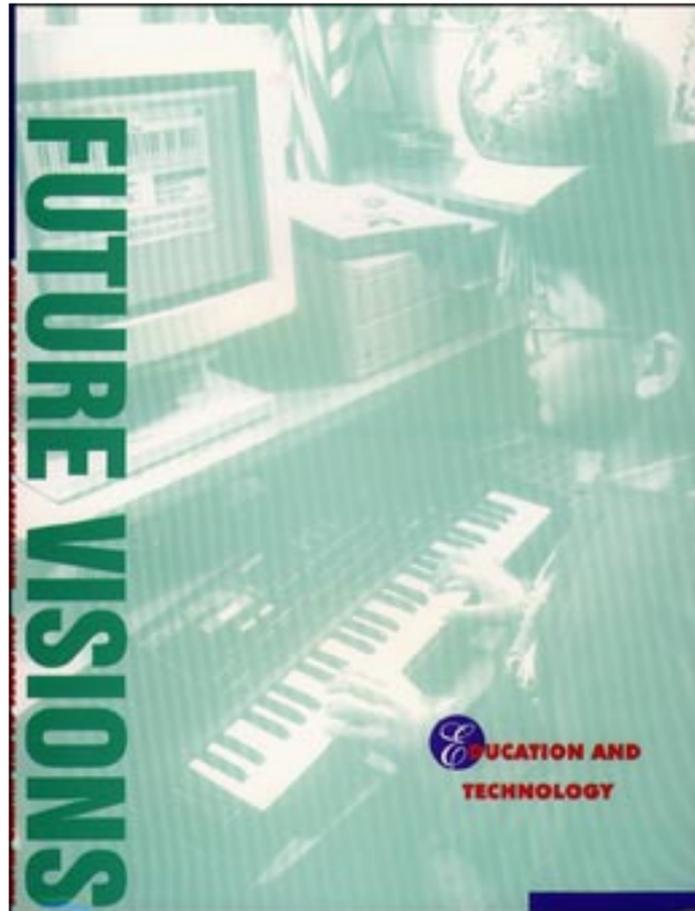


Education and Technology: Future Visions

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Foreword

Computers, telecommunications networks, and other technologies have become increasingly central to the American way of life. The nation's schools are also investing substantially in technologies for education. What will be the impact of these technologies on schools in the near future? Will there be dramatic changes in teaching techniques, curriculum, staffing, and even the concept of school as a result of investments in these tools? What kinds of visions can we foresee for education over the next decade, if technology use is supported? What factors affect the likelihood of meeting these visions? What role might the federal government play?

In the fall of 1994, the Office of Technology Assessment (OTA) commissioned five contractors to write papers dealing with these issues. In June 1995, the contractors and a number of other prominent educators were invited to OTA for an all-day workshop to discuss these papers and the issues more broadly. This background paper summarizes the workshop discussion and contains the commissioned papers in their entirety. OTA gratefully acknowledges the contributions of the individuals who participated in these efforts.



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