CASE PROJECTS

1. You are a member of your local school board. Your state and a local corporation have just announced that they are willing to contribute $2 million to the school district for telecommunications technology. However, before the district is eligible for the money, it must devise a plan for how best to implement this new technology. Your district serves 18,000 students and contains 32 schools, including 3 high schools. Each of the schools currently has at least one computer lab, but none of the computer labs in different schools are connected to each other. In addition, your telephones have not been upgraded since 1978. Admittedly, your school district is behind the curve in implementing advanced telecommunications. But now is the time to build a solid infrastructure. The school board has asked you to perform some online research about using telecommunications in education. They suggest you find out what other school districts of similar size are doing and present your findings at the next school board meeting. Based on these findings, they also want you to make some general recommendations on how they can best spend the $2,000,000. You may want to begin your search with Internet sites such as www.ed.gov/Technology/ (the U.S. Department of Education’s Office of Educational Technology), www-ed.fnal.gov/net_train/resource_lists/education_telecom.html (the FermiLab education resource list), www.iste.org (the International Society for Technology in Education), and www.nea.org/cet/ (the National Education Association). Make sure your recommendations take into account the number of schools, the current status of the schools’ telecommunications systems, and the most important basic elements the district requires.