Professional Organizations

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**International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE)**

<http://www.iste.org/>

The International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) is responsible for creating national standards for teachers, students, and administrators. This organization holds an annual technology conference to aid educators in the use of technology. The 31st conference will be held in Denver next summer and is beneficial for classroom teachers, as well as technology educators. There are more than 85,000 members of this organization, and they are from all over the world. Their website and membership offers a large variety of resources. This organization is responsible for many publications that aid in the advancement of the use of technology. I am currently a member of this organization.

# Atlanta Area Technology Educators (AATE)

<http://aategroup.wikispaces.com/>

The Atlanta Area Technology Educators organization is a small affiliate of ISTE. There are over 100 members of this group, and they meet quarterly during the school year. The cost is a deal at $20.00 per year and this includes lunch at the meetings. The goal of this organization is to network and share ideas. The format usually includes general business items, conference opportunities, favorite web sites, and a vendor presentation. The last portion usually has three options for a learning opportunity. The choices usually are instructional, information technology, or some type of communication. This organization has allowed me to meet other technology personnel in the Atlanta area and be refreshed on existing items or learn new information.

**Association for Educational Communications and Technology (AECT)** <http://www.aect.org/About/default.asp>

The Association for Educational Communications and Technology (AECT) defines its mission to include the provision of leadership through the use of scholarship and best practices in creating, using, and managing technology. They believe that technology is a process, not just a piece of equipment.It is an international organization that focuses on the design of instruction with a systematic approach. There are over 2,000 members and 24 state and 6 international affiliates that are concerned with creating better instruction. *Educational Technology Research and Development* and *TechTrends* are two of its publications.

**Georgia Association for Instructional Technology (GAIT)**

<http://www.gait-inc.org/>

Georgia Association for Instructional Technology (GAIT) is an organization that focuses on the advancement of learning in the areas of technology and media. Its national affiliate is AECT. There are many different types of people that are members ranging from classroom educators, vendors, secondary educators, trainers, to library media specialists. This organization provides a yearly conference called GaCOMO. The motto for their upcoming conference is “Connecting, Collaborating, and Communicating.”Membership can include awards, stipends, and scholarships.

**Georgia Library Media Association, Inc. (GLMA)**

<http://glma-inc.org/>

The Georgia Library Media Association (GMLA) is an organization targeted at school library media specialists. The mission for GLMA states “To Advocate Excellence, To Facilitate Change, and To Develop Leaders.” However, this mission could easily correlate with technology. Library and media overlap on 21st Century skills. This association is affiliated with ISTE and the [American Association of School Libraries (AASL)](http://www.ala.org/aasl), which is a division of the [American Library Association (ALA)](http://www.ala.org/). This organization is active in advocating legislation in favor of school library media.