

INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY NEWSLINE

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[Newline Submission Guidelines](#)

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INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY SECTION UPDATE

Welcome to the 2009-10 school year. State education agencies and schools across the nation are gearing up programs under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) in addition to their many existing programs and services. With extra funding available, while national and state economies are still suffering, the ed-tech community has a great opportunity – and much responsibility – for taking advantage of the funding and showcasing the impact of effective use of technology on instructional teaching strategies and student academic achievement.

Newsline reflects these activities and opportunities. In this issue, we reveal and/or update the ed-tech programs available for Missouri schools for the coming school year, list those schools receiving competitive grants under the Title II.D (EETT) Program, and provide links to a number of educational reports and meaningful resources. To stay informed of news and timely updates, subscribe to the EdTech listserv and continue to read *Newsline*. Deborah S. Sutton

DESE Budgets / Grant Programs

FY10 Education Technology and Safe Schools Programs

Following are brief sketches of the 2009-10 programs administered directly or indirectly by DESE Instructional Technology. With the addition of stimulus funding, the Department is able to offer Title II.D formula grants for the first time in four years and double the number of competitive grants.

Federal Title II.D and ARRA funding – Competitive grants awarded

By the end of July, the U.S. Department of Education (ED) had awarded both the regular Title II.D and ARRA-funded Title II.D grants to state education agencies. Both state grants are subject to a five percent withhold for DESE administration and ten percent for the nonpublic school bypass contract. The remaining 85 percent [flow-through funding] is distributed equally via Formula and Competitive grants. Note that districts [and DESE] must keep separate records for the different funding sources. *See the *National News* article on ED guidance/rules for use of Title II.D-ARRA funds.

- Formula Grants: Districts can check their formula grant allocations (for Title II.D and ARRA-funded Title II.D) on the DESE Federal Financial Management website, and work with Federal Grants Management staff on how to apply for these funds via the ePeGS [consolidated] Federal Grants Application. See: <http://dese.mo.gov/divimprove/fedprog/financialmanagement/> and <http://dese.mo.gov/divimprove/fedprog/grantmgmt/>.
- Competitive Grants: A total of 24 competitive grants were awarded, as detailed below. The regular Title II.D funds are supporting eight continuation eMINTS grants and two new eMINTS grants. The Title II.D-ARRA funds are supporting

<p>review, feedback</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ISTE releases updated ed-tech standards for school leaders ▪ Learning in the 21st Century: 2009 Trends Update ▪ Task force tells how to keep kids safe online ▪ PBS creates library of digital resources targeted to classroom use ▪ Free online course: student career planning <p>E-rate Program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Funding Year 2009 ▪ Funding Year 2008 <p>MOREnet Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Early bird registration now open for the MOREnet Instructional Technology Conference 2009 ▪ MOREnet Bandwidth Upgrade Information ▪ Online Resources Contract Awarded ▪ Gale Resources: Regional Training Available <p>Cooperating School Districts – St. Louis Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Potential Midwest Education Technology Conference presenters ▪ The ACT videoconference prep <p>e-Learning for Educators Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ e-Learning for 	<p>14 new grants implementing eMINTS and other research-based instructional models. Beginning August 4, the Governor plans to visit several of the ARRA-funded, grant-recipient schools!</p> <p>Title II.D – Continuation eMINTS grants</p> <p>East Newton Co. R-VI (Granby) Fulton 58 Hancock Place Putnam Co. R-I (Unionville) Richmond R-XVI School of the Osage R-II Sullivan Westran R-I (Huntsville)</p> <p>Title II.D – New eMINTS grants</p> <p>Gasconade Co. R-I (Hermann) Jefferson City</p> <p>ARRA – New eMINTS grants</p> <p>Cameron R-I Cassville R-IV Lebanon R-III North Kansas City 74 Sedalia 200 Sikeston R-6 St. Louis City Wellston</p> <p>ARRA – New Other (non-eMINTS) grants</p> <p>Arcadia Valley R-II (Ironton) Blue Springs R-IV Columbia 93 Eldon R-I Ferguson-Florissant R-II Nixa R-II</p> <p>State eMINTS-METS School Grants – Program not funded for 2009-10 While Missouri House Bill 2, proposed \$1,000,000 (using Federal Budget Stabilization Funding) for DESE for the “enhancing Missouri’s Instructional Networked Teaching Strategies (eMINTS) Program,” the funding was part of the Governor’s recent cuts to the state budget.</p> <p>FY10 State Safe Schools Program – Reduced funding possible, continuation grants only Missouri House Bill 22, proposed \$2,250,000 (using Federal Budget Stabilization Funding) for DESE for continued support of the Safe Schools grant program – intended to support only continuation grants (existing projects). While the program survived a first round of cuts to balance the state’s FY10 budget, it is possible that program funding might be reduced or eliminated, and Instructional Technology has not yet been given the okay to start the grant negotiation process.</p> <p>MOREnet K-12 Technology Network Program (TNP) – Decreased funding, flat fees While MOREnet’s core budget item was reduced for FY10 and then subject to extra withholding, MOREnet and DESE decided to not increase TNP membership fees for FY10 (except for districts that have received bandwidth increases in the past year that will be assessed higher fees for the extra bandwidth). However, districts should expect an increase in membership fees for FY11.</p>
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<p>Educators Registration opens August 12 for fall courses</p> <p>Regular Featured Items</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Upcoming Conferences ▪ Grant Funding Opportunities ▪ Videoconferences / Collaborative Projects ▪ From the Mailbag ▪ Updated eTHEMES <hr/> <p>Index by Topics Archives</p>	<p>District Technology Planning – 204 tech plans require state approval in spring 2010</p> <p>Over 200 districts and charter schools have technology plans with a state approval date that expires June 30, 2010. These schools can expect to receive a letter from Instructional Technology, informing them that new plans – addressing school years 2010-2011, 2011-2012, and 2012-2013 – must be submitted to DESE via ePeGS by April 15. Since ePeGS this will be the first time these districts will use ePeGS to create the plan document submitted for state approval, Instructional Technology offers the following suggestions and assistance.</p> <p>2009 REVIEW LESSONS LEARNED –</p> <p>Using ePeGS resulted in much shorter plan documents with standardized formatting that focused primarily on plans’ objectives, strategies, and action steps. The readers/evaluators, once accustomed to the format and how and where to find the information aligned to the scoring criteria, stated that it was easy to review and score the plans for state approval. However, the transition was not without stress and shortcomings.</p>
<p>With regards to using the ePeGS tool, districts had to make sure proper staff had proper privileges for entering, revising, and submitting plans for approval, and become acquainted with the system’s structure and learn how to initiate/create the ed-tech plan, how to tie objectives and strategies to the ePeGS goals and the state’s technology focus areas (TFAs), select and save data from drop-down menus, create and enter appropriate progress measures, etc.</p> <p>In terms of the plan quality, over one in four plans did not meet approval because they failed to adequately address all five TFAs, have specific, measurable progress measures, adequately address the major goals of the NCLB Title II.D program (including teacher professional development and 8th-grade student technology literacy), and complete or provide sufficient detail regarding the planned process for evaluating the plan (located in the plan’s additional elements).</p> <p>PLANNING FOR 2010 –</p> <p>To assist the 204 districts that must submit ed-tech plans for state approval next year, Instructional Technology staff plan to give two breakout presentations at the Federal Programs Conference on September 28 that will address technology planning in brief detail, and a three-hour pre-conference session at MOREnet’s fall conference on October 18 that will be devoted to technology planning. The MITC session will provide an overview of the planning requirements and have district staff report on their effective practices (and “lessons learned”) in using ePeGS for technology planning.</p> <p>Census of Technology – Update on data entry cycle; increased importance of the data</p> <p>The April Core Data Collection of the Census of Technology (COT) provides DESE with valuable information for reporting progress on meeting goals and objectives of the state and federal ed-tech grant programs (such as Title II.D) and state and national ed-tech plans. COT provides districts with data useful for technology planning and evaluation and to meet increased accountability and reporting required for ARRA-funded programs! According to our records, only a few “straggler” districts and charter schools that have not completed the COT or still have edits. Look for a report of select data elements in the September issue of Newswire.</p>	
<p>STATE AND NATIONAL NEWS</p> <p>ED issues rules and guidance on ed-tech stimulus funds</p> <p>Guidance on EETT Funds under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009</p> <p>On July 29, the U.S. Department of Education (ED) issued new guidance to help states and schools use education technology stimulus funding to drive lasting education reform and improve student academic achievement. As with the Title II.D funding distributed through the traditional appropriation process, school recipients must use at least 25% of the stimulus funding to provide ongoing, sustained, and intensive professional development focused on the integration of advanced technologies into the curriculum and instruction and on using these technologies to create new learning environments. The transferability and flexibility provisions under No Child Left Behind also apply to ARRA funds.</p>	

State and National News, cont'd.

In the report, ED describes the four principles of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) that should guide distribution of the funds, including those through the Title II.D (Ed Tech) program. For example, ED suggests grant recipients ask themselves the following questions when deciding how best to spend the ed-tech funds:

1. **Drive results for students.** Will the proposed use of funds drive improved results for students, including students in poverty, students with disabilities, and English language learners?
2. **Increase capacity.** Will the proposed use of funds increase educators' long-term capacity to improve results for students?
3. **Accelerate reform.** Will the proposed use of funds advance state, district, or school improvement plans and the reform goals encompassed in the ARRA?
4. **Avoid funding cliff and improve productivity.** Will the proposed use of funds avoid recurring costs that state, school systems, and schools are unprepared to assume when the funding ends? Will the proposed use serve as "bridge funding" to help transitions to more effective and efficient approaches?
5. **Foster continuous improvement.** Will the proposed use of funds include approaches to measure and track implementation and results, and create feedback loops to modify or discontinue strategies based on evidence?

Note that Ed provides at the end of the document a rather extensive list of "Examples of Uses" that are allowable under Title II.D and consistent with the ARRA principles and core reform assurances.

ED guidance also addresses the additional ARRA transparency, accountability, and reporting requirements. States must monitor grant activities to ensure that no stimulus funds are wasted or abused and ensure sub-grant compliance with all applicable federal requirements. States must report on district performance related to four specific ed-tech measures: 1) percentage of districts that have effectively and fully integrated technology; 2) percentage of classrooms with Internet access in high and low-performing schools; 3) percentage of teachers who meet state technology standards; and 4) percentage of students who meet state technology standards by the end of the eighth grade. For transparency, ED will keep public records of all state implementations of funds, made available in quarterly reports, posted at <http://www.recovery.gov>.

NKC district featured in Wall Street Journal ARRA article

http://online.wsj.com/article_email/SB10001424052970204900904574304140278264598-1MyQjAxMDA5MDIwMzEyNDMyWj.html#articleTabs%3Darticle

On July 22, The Wall Street Journal posted an article about the ed-tech stimulus funds, "An Apple for Your Teacher." The article discusses technology's place in the classrooms and provides examples of how some districts plan to use the ARRA funds to improve student learning – highlighting the North Kansas City school district and Janet Herdman, executive director of technology for the district.

Missouri to create statewide bandwidth network by 2014

<http://transform.mo.gov/broadband/wiki/index.php/MoBroadbandNow>

In July, Governor Nixon announced creation of a program to establish statewide broadband Internet access by 2014. The program, MoBroadbandNow, will consist of businesses and organizations that will partner with the state to compete for federal stimulus funding. The U.S. departments of agriculture and commerce have announced a \$4.7 billion loan and grant program to develop the infrastructure needed to deliver high-speed Internet access to areas that are underserved or without access. The MoBroadbandNow program aims to create a fiber optic broadband backbone that would reach even the most rural areas in Missouri. According to a 2008 survey conducted by Communications Workers of America, Missouri ranks 39th in the nation in Internet download speed.

Missouri committee developing information literacy GLEs and CLEs

This past school year, the DESE curriculum, library media, and instructional technology sections convened a committee to develop Information, Communications Technology, and Media Literacy grade-level and course-level expectations. As outlined below, the literacy GLEs and CLEs focus on how to identify, locate, evaluate, and create information for a specific purpose. While the expectations promote the use of various media and information and communications technologies in accessing and using information effectively and efficiently, they focus more on the use of information than on the use of any specific media, software, or hardware.

1. Follow inquiry process to construct new understandings, draw conclusions, and create new knowledge
2. Determine nature and intent of information needed (purpose and audience, focus questions and key word search)

State and National News, cont'd.

3. Access information efficiently and effectively (information sources, source navigation)
4. Evaluate information critically and competently (message, relevance, reliability, comprehensiveness)
5. Use information effectively and creatively (information recording/organization, synthesis, and presentation)
6. Practice safe, legal, and ethical use of information and technology (digital citizenship, academic honesty, cyber safety)

DESE staffs hope to have a draft ready for public review later this summer.

Missouri Student Success Network to host alternative schools workshop

<http://dese.mo.gov/divimprove/safeschools/documents/MssnMaasWkshp.pdf>

For the second year, the Missouri Student Success Network (MSSN) will host a Missouri Administrators of Alternative Schools Network Workshop to address issues such as professional development, best practices, dropout prevention, early intervention, data collection, community partnerships, and building community continuity. The workshop will be held Wednesday, October 21, from 9:30 to 2:30, in Room 490 of the Harry S. Truman Building, 301 West High Street, Jefferson City. The registration fee is \$80 and deadline for registering is October 16. To register online go to: <http://apps.oseda.missouri.edu/MssnRegistration/>. For additional information, contact: Richard Phillips at 816-807-2636, pkeycon@swbell.net or Linda Washburn at 573-280-2572, lwashburn_1@charter.net.

RESEARCH, PUBLICATIONS, RESOURCES**National ed-tech plan draft available for review, feedback**

<https://edtechfuture.org/>

ED is developing a new National Educational Technology Plan to provide a vision for how information and communication technologies can help transform American education. The plan will provide a set of concrete goals that can inform state and local educational technology plans as well as inspire research, development, and innovation. A working group of education and technology scholars is being organized to support the development of the plan, with a draft plan expected in early 2010.

The emerging framework for the plan focuses on three broad areas in which technology has the potential to transform education: enabling unprecedented access to high-quality learning experiences, providing the information that creates transparency in the education system and enables continuous improvement processes at all levels, and enhancing collaboration and content management to derive cost savings and productivity gains through process redesign. This effort includes more effective approaches to education R&D to increase the pace of innovation and the scaling of effective practices.

Visit the web site to review the current draft and provide feedback. Note that users must register to provide feedback.

ISTE releases updated ed-tech standards for school leaders

<http://www.iste.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=NETS>.

During the 2009 NECC (National Educational Computing Conference) held in Washington, D.C June 28-July 1, the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) released an updated version of its ed-tech standards for school leaders. The 2009 National Educational Technology Standards and Performance Indicators for Administrators (NETS*A) address: visionary leadership, digital-age learning culture, excellence in professional practice, systemic improvement, digital citizenship. To download the new NETS*A document, go to: http://www.iste.org/Content/NavigationMenu/NETS/ForAdministrators/2009Standards/NETS-A_2009.pdf.

Learning in the 21st Century: 2009 Trends Update (Released July 2009)

<http://www.blackboard.com/Solutions-by-Market/K-12/Learn-for-K12/Leadership-Views/Education-in-the-21st-Century.aspx>

The *Learning in the 21st Century: 2009 Trend Update* examines the growing student interest for online learning and

Research, Publications, Resources, cont'd.

how schools are meeting that demand. This report, which is the third in a series of reports published by Project Tomorrow®, a national education nonprofit organization, in collaboration with Blackboard, examines the Speak Up 2008 survey data collected online in Fall 2008 from more than 335,000 K-12 students, teachers, administrators and parents from across the nation.

The report highlights how students are utilizing technology to become "free agent learners" and driving the demand for more online classes in and out of school. Yet, our schools are limiting online classes to remediation and credit recovery for students, and primarily focusing their online learning initiatives towards professional development for teachers. Through this report you will gain insight, from schools and districts across the nation, about why students and teachers want access to classes online, the current challenges faced by districts with online learning implementations, and how online learning presents unprecedented opportunities for meeting the needs of our 21st century learner.

Task force tells how to keep kids safe online

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

Members of a national Internet safety task force on July 8 suggested several ways to improve cyber safety for children, focusing on three key areas in particular: education before a child gets on the internet, control while the child is online, and having set procedures if problems arise.

The task force, which included representatives from Verizon, Comcast, Cox, Google, Yahoo!, AOL, Symantec, Common Sense Media, the Internet Keep Safe Coalition (iKeepSafe), the National Parent-Teacher Association, Family Online Safety Institute, and the Children's Partnership, met for more than a year to develop its report and recommendations.

The coalition not only identified best practices in the report, titled "PointSmart.ClickSafe: Task Force Recommendations for Best Practices for Online Safety and Literacy," but also outlined areas where government can help to increase cyber security and safety.

The report states that policy makers should consider expanding online safety efforts to emphasize digital media literacy and education programs for parents and teachers, designating a lead federal agency to work with stakeholders to marshal resources for cyber safety, adopting a set of national goals, ensuring that the programs are funded through competitive grants, and providing funding for research, assessment, professional and curriculum development, and public awareness campaigns.

PBS creates library of digital resources targeted to classroom use

<http://www.1105newsletters.com/t.do?id=2928652:136273>

In an effort to make its vast collection of digital educational resources available for in-class use, PBS has announced the launch of the PBS Digital Learning Library, a comprehensive source of digital video, still images, audio, games, and interactive simulations for teachers to use to augment their lessons.

Free online course: student career planning

<http://www.eschoolnews.com/news/top-news/index.cfm?i=59642>

A free online learning program from Microsoft aims to help middle and high school students think about careers they might like to pursue and the skills necessary to attain those careers.

E-RATE PROGRAM

Funding Year 2009. USAC will release FY2009 **Wave 15** Funding Commitment Decision Letters (FCDLs) on **August 4** that will include commitments for approved Priority 1 requests (Telecommunications Services and Internet Access) for schools and libraries at all discount levels. As of July 31, FY2009 commitments total just under \$657 million.

E-rate Program, cont'd.

Funding Year 2008. USAC will release FY2008 **Wave 63** FCDLs **August 3** that will include commitments for approved Internal Connections and Basic Maintenance requests at 88% and above (and denials at 86% and below). As of July 31, FY2008 commitments total just under \$2.35 billion.

USAC will continue to issue FCDLs for funding years 2009, 2008, and 2007 until funds are exhausted. To check to see if you have a commitment, use USAC's [Automated Search of Commitments](#) tool.

MOREnet UPDATE

submitted by Eric Nicklas

Early bird registration now open for the MOREnet Instructional Technology Conference 2009

Educators face many challenges when it comes to instructional technology. MOREnet strives to listen to your challenges and deliver a conference that will answer your questions and stimulate innovation. For the 2009 MOREnet Instructional Technology Conference (MITC), we have chosen the theme "Reaching the Digital Age Learner." From planning and budgeting to implementation and support, at MITC 2009 you will find answers and ideas to help you adopt and improve the use of technology in your classrooms.

Don't miss your annual opportunity to network with colleagues and catch up on the latest technology trends. MITC 2009 "Reaching the Digital Age Learner" will be held Oct. 18-20 in Osage Beach at Tan-Tar-A. Join us for all three days of presentations, discussions and networking as we continue to explore the evolution of IT in education. Register online now using our new registration tool at

<http://guest.cvent.com/i.aspx?5S,M3,c804bfd-1a50-4cac-a469-8e74ce407574>.

Find more detailed information about MITC 2009 at <http://www.more.net/content/mitc>. For questions or comments concerning this announcement, please contact MOREnet Conferences at conferences@more.net.

MOREnet Bandwidth Upgrade Information

School districts requesting a bandwidth upgrade will need to submit two online forms: (1) Bandwidth Utilization Survey and (2) Connection Information Form. The information gathered through these forms will provide necessary connection information and allow for better estimates of bandwidth needs by indicating current and future bandwidth use. These online forms are available at <http://www.more.net/content/connection-upgrade-process>.

MOREnet will work closely with districts in determining the appropriate bandwidth needed to run the resources and applications used by the district.

Upgrade requests will be approved based on the following criteria:

- Request submitted within upgrade timeline
- Current district bandwidth use
- Future district bandwidth use

The next deadlines for a bandwidth upgrade requests is Sept. 30, 2009, for bandwidth to be in place during Feb. 2010.

Please note that connection installation times are estimates and can vary due to circuit type, bid status and construction issues. If you have any questions, contact Eric Nicklas (eric@more.net) or call 1-800-509-6673.

Online Resources Contract Awarded

The Missouri State Library and MOREnet are excited to announce that Gale, Cengage Learning™, has been awarded the contract for the general periodical, health, business and K-12 online resource databases. Similar resources, currently provided to MOREnet members by EBSCO, are available through June 30, 2009. The Gale databases listed below will be available to all MOREnet members as of July 1, 2009:

- Business & Company Resource Center
- Small Business Resource Center

MOREnet Update, cont'd.

- Academic OneFile
- General OneFile
- InfoTrac Collections
- Health & Wellness Resource Center with Alternative Health
- Health Reference Center Academic
- Student Edition (InfoTrac)
- Junior Edition (InfoTrac)
- Kids InfoBits
- Custom Newspapers (InfoTrac)
- Informe (Spanish periodical database)

NOTE: This change does not affect the other online resources currently available to all MOREnet members, including the Gale Discovering Collection, NewsBank and LearningExpress Library. A list of the online resources currently available to you as part of your MOREnet membership is at <http://www.more.net/content/online-resources>.

Gale Resources: Regional Training Available

MOREnet has worked with Gale and MOBIUS to schedule regional trainings on the new Gale online resources during July. Each hands-on session will be delivered by a Gale trainer and will provide in-depth information on the resources, an overview of search techniques, comparisons to other online resources and insight into administrative tools to enhance the user experience.

Two sessions are scheduled in each location: one focused on the use of the resources by academic libraries and a separate session focused on the use of the resources by public libraries and school districts.

To register for the Gale regional training in your area, visit MOREnet's training schedule at <http://solutions.more.net/apps/training/schedule>. For additional information on the Gale services, visit <http://www.more.net/content/online-resources>. For questions about the regional trainings, contact MOREnet Technical Training by calling (800) 509-6673 or send an e-mail to training@more.net.

COOPERATING SCHOOL DISTRICTS – ST. LOUIS UPDATE

submitted by Rebecca Morrison

Cooperating School Districts has two major deadlines in August: the Midwest Education Technology Conference Call for Presenters closes and the ACT prep over videoconference class registration ends.

Potential Midwest Education Technology Conference presenters - proposals are due by August 20! For more details, please visit the METC Moodle: metconference.org. This year, METC is February 8, 9, 10 and the conference theme is **Reaching Beyond the Cloud**.

The ACT videoconference prep course offered by Cooperating School Districts and The Princeton Review starts September 22. In order to get all the materials to participants, students need to register with CSD by August 31. For more details, please visit the New Links to New Learning website: <http://www2.csd.org/newlinks/index.html>.

e-LEARNING FOR EDUCATORS UPDATE

submitted by Christie Terry

e-Learning for Educators Registration opens August 12 for fall courses

Registration for fall e-Learning for Educators courses opens August 12 and closes September 23. Fall 2009 semester courses run October 7 - November 24. Courses cost \$125. Scholarships covering half the course fee (\$62.50) are available at <http://www.elearningmo.org/scholarships.html>.

All courses are worth 2 credit hours and can be taken for graduate credit through UMKC, UMSL or MSU for an additional \$100 per credit hour.

e-Learning for Educators Update, cont'd.

Find details and register for courses at <http://www.elearningmo.org>.

Fall 2009 course list

- Promoting Reading Comprehension Skills in the Elementary Classroom
- Promoting Reading Comprehension Skills in the Middle School Classroom
- Using Technology in the Elementary Math Classroom
- Science in the Living World
- Motion and Force in Your World
- Science 2.0 Using Web Tools to Promote Inquiry-based Science
- Differentiating Instruction: Empowering All Learners
- Effective Instruction for K-12 Virtual School Learners
- Rethinking Lesson Planning Using Backward Design
- Classroom Assessment Enhanced by Technology
- Missouri Comprehensive Guidance Program: An Introduction for Administrators
- Library Medial Specialist
- Proportional Reasoning
- Personal Finance

Find details and register for courses at <http://www.elearningmo.org>. Contact e-Learning for Educators by e-mail at elearning@missouri.edu or phone (573) 884-4233.

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

2009	Conference
October 18 – 20	MOREnet Instructional Technology Conference MITC 2009 "Reaching the Digital Age Learner" Osage Beach at Tan-Tar-A. http://quest.cvent.com/i.aspx?5S.M3.c804bdfb-1a50-4cac-a469-8e74ce407574
2010 February 8 – 10	Midwest Educational Technology Conference Reaching Beyond the Cloud. St. Charles Convention Center in St. Charles, MO. http://metconference.org/moodle2010/

GRANT FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Due Date	Grant Program
2009 September	Time Warner Cable National Teacher Awards to teachers using cable television resources http://www.timewarnercable.com/Corporate/about/community/nationalteachers/default.html
September 15	Ezra Jack Keats Minigrants for School and Public Libraries \$500 for school and public library programs that encourage literacy and creativity in children http://www.ezra-jack-keats.org/programs/minigrant.html
September 1	Mobile Learning Institute and Pearson Foundation Earth Day Challenge Filmmaking Contest http://www.earthdaychallenge.org/awards.html www.mobilelearninginstitute.org For more information contact earthdaychallenge@pearsonfoundation.org

Grant Funding Opportunities, cont'd.

September 14	Foundation for Rural Education and Development Technology Grants for Rural Schools http://www.fred.org/tech.html
Variety	Dollar General has a variety of grants to assist schools. http://www.dollargeneral.com/servingothers/Pages/GrantPrograms.aspx
February, May, August, November	Build-A-Bear Workshop Giving Programs http://www.buildabear.com/aboutus/community/grants
Ongoing	Coca-Cola Foundation Education Grants http://www.thecoca-colacompany.com/
Ongoing	Educational Foundation of America Grants http://www.efaw.org/
Ongoing	ING Foundation Educational Grants http://www.ing-usa.com/us/aboutING/CorporateCitizenship/index.htm
Ongoing	Kinder Morgan Foundation Education Grants http://www.kindermorgan.com/community/km_foundation.cfm
Ongoing	Lowe's Toolbox for Education Grant http://www.toolboxforeducation.com/
Ongoing	Motorola Community Grants http://www.symbol.com/category.php/?category=736
Ongoing	Motorola Foundation http://www.motorola.com/giving
June 1, October 15, February 1	NEA Foundation Green Grants This year the program emphasizes "green" projects that involve students learning about and engaging in environmental preservation and protection. www.neafoundation.org/grants .
Ongoing	NEA Foundation Student Achievement Grants http://www.neafoundation.org/programs/StudentAchievement_Guidelines.htm
Ongoing	NEA Learning & Leadership Grants http://www.neafoundation.org/grants/NEA-Grants_bro-web.pdf
Ongoing	Pay It Forward Mini-Grants for Service-Oriented Projects for Youths http://www.payitforwardfoundation.org/get_involved.html
Ongoing	RGK Foundation Education Grants http://www.rgkfoundation.org/public/grants
Ongoing	Robert H. Michel Special Project Grants http://www.dirksencenter.org/print_grants_specialprojects.htm
Ongoing	State Farm Companies Foundation Education Grants http://www.statefarm.com/about/part_spos/grants/foundation_grants.asp
Ongoing	Toshiba America Foundation 7-12 Math and Science Grants http://www.toshiba.com/tafpub/jsp/about/HowApply.jsp

Grant Funding Opportunities, cont'd.

For information about grants, funding, foundations and grant writing, check out the following sites:

An independent nonprofit information clearinghouse on grants available throughout the United States, **The Foundation Center** offers publications, including directories of foundation and corporate grantmakers, research advice, custom research, and database searching. The website includes online training in grantseeking, proposal writing, and funding research, as well as, an online librarian. <http://www.fdncenter.org>

AT&T Aspire <http://www.att.com/gen/corporate-citizenship?pid=7736>

Converge online: Grant Secrets – <http://www.convergemag.com/>

The 2009-10 **Dell Funding Calendar**, published by Tech and Learning, can be found at <http://www.techlearning.com/article/21102>. Check it out for grant opportunities, grant writing ideas and strategy tips.

Edu4U is a resource for people who want to enhance teaching and learning for all students with the power of technology. Find information, resources and fellow travelers to help achieve your educational goals. <http://en.community.dell.com/groups/edu4u/default.aspx>

Edutopia has a listing of corporate, nonprofit, and government grant-making institutions, periodicals with grant information, and more. For more information, visit <http://www.edutopia.org/foundation/grant.php>.

Electronic Learning, from Instructor Magazine, focuses on the use of technology in the classroom. The EL website will soon be expanded to include grant information. <http://www.teacher.scholastic.com/products/instructor.htm>

For an extensive list of grants, check the **Grants Directory from Technology and Learning** <http://techlearning.com/resources/grants.jhtml>.

Fundraising for Educators Web Resources (A site intended as a starting point for elementary and secondary school administrators and teachers who are interested in learning more about foundations, fundraising, proposal writing, etc.) <http://www.lib.msu.edu/harris23/grants/4edfrais.htm>

Fundsnet Online Services: http://www.fundsnet services.com/searchresult.php?sbcats_id=6

* Computers & technology – http://www.fundsnet services.com/searchresult.php?sbcats_id=4

Grant writing and funding resources are available at <http://www.libraryspot.com/features/grantsfeature.htm>.

Grantsandfunding.com offers a complete listing of all Thompson Publishing Group publications that focus on grant and funding issues. Thompson Publishing Group publication subscribers have access to a special section that provides resources such as grant deadlines, highlights of funding issues, and links to related websites. <http://www.grantsandfunding.com>

Grantwrangler.com: online listing service of grants and awards for teachers and students. New mygrantwrangler.com is a social-networking site for both grant seekers and grant givers to share insights and experiences – <http://www.grantwrangler.com/index.html>.

Helpforschools.com (sponsored by the U.S. Dept. of Education and Mid-continent Comprehensive Center) – “grants knowledgebase”– <http://www.helpforschools.com/grants/login.shtml?redirect=http://www.helpforschools.com/grants/>

In each issue of **The Education World Grants Newsletter** <http://www.educationworld.com/maillist.shtml>, Don Peek from The School Funding Center

Grant Funding Opportunities, cont'd.

<http://www.schoolfundingcenter.com> recommends a Web resource, book, software program, or another useful tool of interest to the grants community. This resource is a Web page from Teacher Tap which is a part of Eduscapes. <http://www.eduscapes.com/tap/topic94.htm>

International Technology Education Association (ITEA) <http://www.iteaconnect.org>

ISTE: Educator Resources: Funding – <http://www.iste.org/>

Mazda <http://www.mazdafoundation.org/index.html>

MultiMedia Schools, a print magazine published five times a year, addresses multiple technologies used in K-12 schools today. Selected full-text content is now available online. Includes a NewsWatch section, which posts technology-related funding news and links. <http://www.infoday.com/MMSchools>

National Science Foundation (NSF) <http://www.nsf.gov>

NEC Foundation of America <http://www.necfoundation.org>

Non-profit guides: “grant writing tools for non-profit organizations” <http://www.npguides.org/links.htm>

Northwest Education Technology Consortium (NETC): “Grants and funding”
<http://www.netc.org/grants/index.html>

Public Education Network posts a listing of Existing Grant Opportunities (updated each week) at http://www.publiceducation.org/newsblast_grants.asp.

SchoolGrants is a collection of resources and tips to help K-12 educators apply for and obtain special grants for a variety of projects. The site offers various fundraising ideas, sample proposals, grant writing tips, and scholarship information. <http://www.schoolgrants.org>

Sign up for the free **GrantsAlert.com Weekly Recap** for current K-12 Funding and Grants Alerts. For more complete information go to: <http://www.grantsalert.com>.

Sun Microsystems Foundation Open Gateway Grants Program
http://www.sun.com/aboutsun/comm_invest/ogp/index.html

Technogrants.com – <http://www.technogrants.com/>

The Grant Guru <http://www.techlearning.com/article/15512> Gary Carnow is starting a new grant writing series. First up, Building Our Grantseeker’s Toolkit.

The **Grants.gov** site allows organizations to electronically find and apply for competitive grant opportunities from all Federal grant-making agencies, and encompasses over 900 grant programs offered by the 26 Federal grant-making agencies. It streamlines the process of awarding over \$350 billion annually to state and local governments, academia, not-for-profits, and other organizations.
<http://grants.gov>

THE Journal: Funding: <http://www.thejournal.com/the/topics/funding/>

The School Funding Center is a subscription based database for federal, state, and foundation grants for schools. Included in the subscription is Dr. Deborah Porter’s Successful School Grants, a step-by-step grant-writing manual by one of the foremost grant writers in the country.
[http://www.schoolfundingcenter.info/\(xzvsqo2g4qqxuc55s0mcdmyy\)/index.aspx](http://www.schoolfundingcenter.info/(xzvsqo2g4qqxuc55s0mcdmyy)/index.aspx)

Grant Funding Opportunities, cont'd.

The **online version of eSchool News** monthly magazine contains a grants section with regularly updated grant, scholarship, professional development, and other funding opportunities for both educators and students. <http://www.eschoolnews.com/funding>

Toyota USA Foundation

http://www.toyota.com/about/our_commitment/philanthropy/education/toyota_usa/

U.S. Department of Education Funding Opportunities <http://www.ed.gov/fund/landing.jhtml>

The George Lucas Educational Foundation <http://www.edutopia.org/> is a nonprofit operating foundation and is not a grant-making organization. However, in order to realize the potential of 21st-century education, they are fully aware that our community needs to secure grants and be aware of other exciting opportunities in education, such as the following:

- **Carnegie Hall's Honor!** (a timeline of African American history through music) <http://www.carnegiehall.org/honor/history/index.aspx>
- **Progressive Automotive's Fuel Our Future Now** offers free plans for grades K-12 on alternative fuel types, general science, and engineering <http://www.fuelourfuturenow.com/>
- **Lutron Electronics's Greenovation Bright Green Dream School Sustainability Challenge** runs through September 25; awards up to \$15,000 toward a sustainable classroom upgrade <http://www.greenovationnation.com/dream/>
- **Peace One Day Education** offers free classroom tools for Peace Day in September http://education.peaceoneday.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=71&Itemid=73&lang=en

Visit The George Lucas Educational Foundation Grant Information List <http://www.edutopia.org/grant-information> for other opportunities.

VIDEOCONFERENCES / COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS

RoundTrips <http://www.roundtrips.org>.

Contact RoundTrips at roundtrips@clayton.k12.mo.us, or (314) 773-6934.

New Links to New Learning from Cooperating School Districts

<http://www2.csd.org/newlinks/index.html>

Contact Rebecca Morrison at rmorrison@csd.org or (314) 692-1274, or read the New Links blog at <http://www.csdtechpd.wordpress.com>

The Fairfax Network <http://www.fcps.edu/fairfaxnetwork/>, an award-winning producer of distance learning programming creates programming for educators to use in the classroom, and for public television stations and cable systems. The lineup includes quality K-12 enrichment, parenting, and staff development programs. Many of the shows come with additional resource information, teacher guides, and classroom activities created to fit seamlessly into the curriculum. Fairfax Network programs are free to schools, school systems, cable companies, and public television programmers.

Collaborations Around the Planet (CAPspace) is a social networking tool for educational videoconferencing built into the new Read Around the Planet registration system.

<http://projects.twice.cc/index.php>

Global Nomads Group creates education programs and media about global issues for youth using interactive technologies in the classroom, such as live videoconferencing and multi-media videos.

<http://www.gng.org/home.html>

Video Conferences / Collaborative Projects, cont'd.

Resources for Online Field Trips

- **The Virtual Smithsonian:** Includes online tours of exhibits in the museums of natural history, American history, and art in Washington. http://2k.si.edu/2k/node_rotunda/indexe.htm
- **Jet Propulsion Lab at NASA:** Allows participants to choose a virtual character and take a trip through an animated museum, mission control, and a robotics lab. <http://virtualexpedition.jpl.nasa.gov/smmk/top/gates>
- **National Geographic Expeditions Online:** Features a database of lesson plans, online activities, and maps tied to the national geography standards. <http://www.nationalgeographic.com/xpeditions/>
- **Ball State University Electronic Field Trips:** Offers live and archived video tours of a variety of topics and destinations, including the Florida Everglades, gray whale migrations from Southern California to Mexico, and the Indianapolis Motor Speedway. Includes low-cost Web resources for each lesson. <http://www.bsu.edu/efl/home/31digest.php>
- **Colonial Williamsburg:** Programs for grades 4-8 with live broadcasts on public-television stations and archived video presentations on the Web highlighting people, places, and events throughout history. <http://www.history.org/trips/>

FROM THE MAILBAG

izzit.org

Provides free educational videos compelling educational DVDs, current events lessons, and unique games and contests. These offerings come from a group of television producers who create and distribute programs that spark curiosity and lively classroom discussions. <http://www.izzit.org/>

Become a Citizen Scientist!

The *My Wonderful World* program from the National Geographic Society is offering a variety of Citizen Scientist programs. Through citizen science, professionals collaborate with members of the public to conduct scientific studies. Citizen science is a fun, family-friendly way to get outside, explore the distribution of species (biogeography) of your local area, fine-tune your observation and analysis skills, and contribute to real science and conservation efforts. Children use their senses to collect data through observation and fun activities.

Below are brief descriptions of a sampling of available projects.

- **Birds in Forested Landscapes** <http://www.birds.cornell.edu/bfl/> BFL is a study of birds and the habitats that they live in. Participants record types of trees, sizes, ages, elevations and latitudes. Then, they observe the birds and habitats at three levels: the survey point, the study site, and the surrounding landscape.
- **Celebrate Urban Birds** <http://www.birds.cornell.edu/celebration> This activity is designed for even the most inexperienced citizen scientists. Participants receive an activity kit with a poster and information on urban greening and bird identification. They learn how to identify 16 types of birds and then make observations at specific 10 minute time intervals.
- **Priority Migrant eBird** <http://ebird.org/content/ebird/> In an attempt to create conservation strategies for long-distance migratory species that have been experiencing population decline, this activity collects data across the Americas. Contributors submit records and observations for five species: the Cerulean Warbler, Golden-winged Warbler, Blue-winged Warbler, Canada Warbler, and the Olive-sided Flycatcher.
- **Lost Lady Bug** <http://www.lostladybug.org/index.php> Participants help Cornell scientists identify rare ladybug species that live around the country. They collect ladybugs using the "How to Guide," then photograph the ladybugs and upload the images along with the time, date, and location via an online submission form.
- **Ready, Set, Glow!** <http://www.readysetglow.org/> An initiative of the Museum of Science in Boston and the National Children's Museum, the Ready, Set, Glow! project gets children involved in research and learning about fireflies.
- **Project Budburst** http://www.windows.ucar.edu/citizen_science/budburst/ Through Budburst, citizen scientists research plants and climate change. First, participants use a list to identify a plant and describe where it is located (including latitude and longitude). They then determine the phenological stage using a field guide. Finally, observations are recorded online.

From the Mailbag, cont'd.

- **Earthwatch** <http://www.earthwatch.org/> Earthwatch Institute engages people worldwide in research and conservation activities. Earthwatch's research is related to sustainable development in a variety of fields. Participants can join in expeditions almost anywhere on the planet!
- **Galaxy Zoo** <http://www.galaxyzoo.org/> At Galaxy Zoo, participants help classify almost a quarter of a million galaxies into different categories by shape. Classifiers are shown images and asked questions regarding the features that mark different types of galaxies. This information is used to discover distance to and age of galaxies, as well as other pieces of vital information.
- **GLOBE at Night** <http://www.darkskiesawareness.org/gan.php> GLOBE at Night collects data from 110 countries to aid scientists in researching patterns of light pollution across the globe. Participants go star-hunting by first finding their latitude and longitude. Then, they identify the constellation Orion and match the nighttime sky above them to one of GLOBE's charts. Observations are reported online and compared to others around the world!
- **Journey North** <http://www.learner.org/jnorth/monarch/> This study follows the migration patterns of Monarch Butterflies from Mexico to the Northern United States. Participants keep a journal and report their observations in order to predict a migration route.
- **FrogWatch** <http://www.nwf.org/frogwatchUSA/> With FrogWatch, participants help scientists conserve amphibians. FrogWatch volunteers gather information about frog abundance in hopes of increasing awareness about nationwide amphibian decline.

FieldScope from National Geographic

FieldScope is a web-based mapping, analysis, and collaboration tool designed to support geographic investigations and engage students as citizen scientists investigating real-world issues - both in the classroom and in outdoor education settings. FieldScope enhances student scientific investigations by providing rich geographic context - through maps, mapping activities, and a rich community where student fieldwork and data is integrated with that of peers and professionals, adding analysis opportunities and meaning to student investigations.

NG FieldScope:

- uses cutting-edge technology to make interactive mapping and geospatial data analysis tools accessible to students via the web in an intuitive package that is free and does not require software installation.
- enables students and classrooms to upload their own field data - including quantitative measurements, field notes, and media, such as photos - and to see it in relation to data from peers and professional scientists.
- fosters collaborative sharing and analysis of data among the FieldScope community and beyond.

National Geographic partners with groups - across a range of scientific disciplines - that are interested in exploring how FieldScope can better support student geographic learning and outdoor investigations. Here are some of those investigations.

- **Chesapeake Bay FieldScope** <http://www.fieldscope.us/fs2/> The Chesapeake Bay FieldScope Project is a "citizen science" initiative in which students investigate water quality issues on local and regional scales and collaborate with students across the Bay to analyze data and take action. Chesapeake Bay FieldScope is a project of National Geographic's Education Programs in collaboration with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and the NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office. For more on the Chesapeake Bay FieldScope project, visit the National Geographic site.
- **BioBlitz Indiana Dunes** <http://dunes.fieldscope.us/> Fieldscope is part of the 2009 Bioblitz - a project of National Geographic, Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore/National Park Service, and Encyclopedia of Life. For more on Indiana Dunes and the 2009 Bioblitz, visit the **National Park Service**, <http://www.nps.gov/indu/supportyourpark/bioblitz2009.htm> **National Geographic** <http://www.nationalgeographic.com/field/projects/bioblitz.html>, and **Encyclopedia of Life** <http://indianadunes.lifedesks.org/>.
- **Watershed Dynamics, Module 1** <http://www.fieldscope.us/fs3/> A project of the GLOBE program that uses FieldScope to enable students to investigate their own watershed in order to understand the flow of water through the watershed, how human activities within the watershed both depend on and impact its hydrology, and how land use changes can affect the plant and animal communities in the watershed.
- **Mapping Our Parks** <http://www.fieldscope.us/fs4/> This project has students use FieldScope to investigate land use impacts on streams within national parks of the National Capital Region. It is a collaboration of the **University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science**, <http://alese.al.umces.edu/> National Geographic, the **Alice Ferguson Foundation**, http://www.fergusonfoundation.org/btw/btw_index.html and

From the Mailbag, cont'd.

the National Park Service.

What is a BioBlitz?

A BioBlitz is a 24-hour event in which teams of scientists, volunteers, and community members join forces to find, identify, and learn about as many local plant and animal species as possible. National Geographic is helping conduct a BioBlitz in a different park each year throughout the decade leading up to the U.S. National Park Service Centennial in 2016. Read all about it on their blog at <http://blogs.nationalgeographic.com/blogs/blogwild/>.

Project founders organized BioBlitz as a way for communities to learn about the biological diversity of local parks and to better understand how to protect them. BioBlitz events give adults, kids, and teens the opportunity to join biologists in the field, participate in bona fide research expeditions, and learn from the experts about biodiversity—both around the planet and in our own backyards.

From PBS Kids

Check out the collection of interactive whiteboard games for educators on PBS KIDS. Students will enjoy participating in these collaborative, fun and engaging experiences, while exploring curriculum from trusted programs such as Curious George, Super Why and Arthur. Like PBS programs, all the games are age-appropriate and vetted by educators. <http://pbskids.org/whiteboard/>

InfoSource Learning's SimpleAssessment is Free Again

OVIEDO, FL – August 3, 2009 – InfoSource Learning is excited to announce that SimpleAssessment for Student Technology Proficiency is free once again for the 2009/2010 school year.

Due to overwhelming demand and support from K-12 districts across the country, the company will continue to offer the ISTE NETS-S based assessment at no cost. With shrinking budgets and increasing demand for schools to report student technology literacy levels, SimpleAssessment is the number one choice by more than 1,200 school districts nationwide.

During SimpleAssessment's first year in classrooms, more than one million students used the assessment to measure and improve their technology proficiency. According to InfoSource Learning's CEO, Michael Werner, "We're back for this school year and more excited than ever. After one full year of use in classrooms, we saw first-hand how our free offer helped a million students – and we want to help a million more."

SimpleAssessment will continue to be offered in two versions (NETS-S 2007 and NETS-S 1998) with options for both PC and Mac schools. The assessment is administered through InfoSource Learning's Learning Management System (LMS), also included free, making it quick and easy to access results and reporting. The immediate reporting helps schools identify student technology proficiency levels, set curriculum goals, support grant proposals, and meet national, state, or district requirements.

To learn more or to receive the assessment free of charge, contact InfoSource Learning at 1-800-393-4636 or sign up on the website at <http://www.SimpleAssessment.com>.

UPDATED eTHEMES

Author Study: Arnold Lobel Learn about the author Arnold Lobel and the books he has written. Biographies and practice questions are included. There is a link to eThemes Resource on Literature: "Frog and Toad are Friends" by Arnold Lobel. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00001652.shtml>

Author Study: Beatrix Potter These sites are about the author Beatrix Potter and her picture books for children. There are lesson plans, questions, classroom activities, and book illustrations. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000359.shtml>

Author Study: Maya Angelou These sites are about author, poet, performer, and activist Dr. Maya Angelou, who wrote "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings" and was the second poet in U.S. history to compose and read a poem for a presidential inauguration. Find out about her life and works, read some of her poetry, and listen to interviews.

Updated eThemes, cont'd.

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00001833.shtml>

Country: Afghanistan Learn more about the people, history, and culture of Afghanistan. Includes photographs, timelines, and articles about this war-ravaged country. There is also information on the Taliban and Islam. Includes links to eThemes Resources on September 11, Women in Afghanistan, and World Religions: Islam

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000778.shtml>

Digital Calligraphy These sites are about digital calligraphy and typography. Learn about the art of ornamental lettering, and how to create decorative type in Photoshop and other programs. There is also information about historical typefaces and layout design. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002188.shtml>

Ecotourism These sites focus on ecotourism. Learn about this concept and the impact of ecotourism as well as how to be a responsible ecotourist. Includes examples, a video clip, lesson plans, and an interactive game related to ecotourism. There is a link to eThemes Resource on an overview of ecosystems.

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00001902.shtml>

Geography: Central America These sites for high-school students are about the countries in Central America and feature several maps. Includes information about the political instability of several of the nations. Learn about the building of the Panama Canal and its return to Panama. Includes information on guerilla warfare and the history behind it. There are also links to eThemes Resources on countries in Central America.

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000756.shtml>

Habitat: Grasslands These sites have information about the different types of grassland habitats found throughout the world. Includes savannas, prairies, and steppes. Learn more about the climate and wildlife that are found in these ecosystems. There is also information about grasslands in Missouri and Utah. Includes eThemes Resources on habitats overview and prairie lands. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000685.shtml>

Literature Awards: Show Me Readers Award Nominees 2002-2003 These sites have information about the 2002-2003 nominees for the Show Me Readers Award. Descriptions of the books and the authors are included, as well as some book reviews. There are links to eThemes resources on the 2003-2004, 2004-2005, and 2005-2006 nominees.

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000703.shtml>

Literature: "Animal Farm" By George Orwell These sites are about the book "Animal Farm" written by George Orwell. Includes historical background information about the book, biographies of the author, and discussion questions. Includes information about symbolism and propaganda. Browse through suggested classroom activities or try the online quizzes. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000765.shtml>

Literature: "Maniac Magee" by Jerry Spinelli These sites are about author Jerry Spinelli and his Newberry Award winning book "Maniac Magee." There are suggested activities to go along with the book and an online quiz. Also includes information about the criteria to win a Newberry Award.

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000596.shtml>

Literature: "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" by Mark Twain These sites have summaries and discussion questions for this controversial book by Mark Twain. Read about the characters, themes, and symbolism in the book. Several classroom activities are included. You can also take an interactive quiz, read the entire book online, or watch a movie online. Includes eThemes Resources on Mark Twain and slavery.

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000728.shtml>

Missouri: Springs Learn about some of the more than 2,900 springs located in Missouri. The springs include Alley Spring, Big Spring, Round Spring, Meramec Spring, and more. Find out how a spring is formed from groundwater. Includes many photographs of these natural wonders. There are links to eThemes Resources on the water cycle.

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000716.shtml>

Pirates These websites are about pirates. You can learn about famous pirates from the past and sunken pirate ships that have been recovered. Includes lesson plans, craft activities, videos, interactive stories, riddles, and online games.

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000777.shtml>

Updated eTHEMES, cont'd.

Teaching Tips: Writing Assessment Tools These sites include rubrics, scoring guides, and checklists for assessing student writing. Ideas for peer editing and student self-evaluation are included. Several of these assessment tools can be used as they are while others can be constructed online.

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000762.shtml>

Web Design: Examples of Elementary Classroom Sites Browse through these elementary classroom sites designed by teachers to see examples of how classroom sites can be organized and designed. Notice the different types of information and links that the sites include. There are also links to tips for creating your own class site.

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000705.shtml>