

# INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY NEWSLINE

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## INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY SECTION UPDATE

*Special topics addressed in this month's issue of Newline include: select data from the 2009 Census of Technology; DESE posting of recently drafted Missouri Information, Communications Technology, and Media (ICTM) Literacy grade- and course-level expectations (GLEs and CLEs) and proposed standards and indicators for 5<sup>th</sup> Cycle of the Missouri School Improvement Program (MSIP); a new special report and guide on how technology can help drive success in Title I schools; updates on the development of the National Education Technology Plan and the NAEP technology literacy assessment; and, more.*

### 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 double the number of competitive grants and offer Title II.D formula grants for the first time in four years.*

#### Federal Title II.D and ARRA funding – Update

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 ED guidance at: Guidance on EETT Funds under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009](#)

- Formula Grants: Formula grants, based on district Title I.A allocations, are administered by DESE Federal Grants Management staff. Districts apply for these funds via the ePeGS [consolidated] Federal Grants Application.
- Competitive Grants: A total of 24 competitive grants were awarded: 10 with regular Title II.D funding and 14 with ARRA funding. The table below lists the districts. To learn more about these projects, read their project summaries at: <http://dese.mo.gov/divimprove/instrtech/federalfunded/TitleIID/documents/FY10TitleIID-ARRAProjectSummaries.pdf>.

<p><b>Title II.D – Continuation eMINTS grants</b>            East Newton Co. R-VI (Granby)            Fulton 58            Hancock Place            Putnam Co. R-I (Unionville)            Richmond R-XVI</p>	<p><b>ARRA – New eMINTS grants</b>            Cameron R-I            Cassville R-IV            Lebanon R-III            North Kansas City 74            Sedalia 200            Sikeston R-6</p>
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**Research, Publications, Resources**

- New resource “Leveraging Title I and Title IID: Maximizing the Impact of Technology in Education: A Resource Guide Identifying Technology Tools for Schools”
- National Ed Tech Plan: New website open for comments
- Revised draft of ‘Common Core’ standards unveiled
- ERIC library to expand, improve under new contract

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**eMINTS Update**

- eMINTS Rocks: Synthesizing a Decade of Change 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Winter Conference
- ISTE Seal of Alignment for eMINTS PD materials and refreshed NETS for Teachers
- Changes to eMINTS National Center personnel
- eMINTS events on the website

**e-Learning for Educators: Missouri Update**

- e-Learning for Educators: Missouri Online Professional Development for Missouri educators

School of the Osage R-II Sullivan Westran R-I (Huntsville)	St. Louis City Wellston
<b>Title II.D – New eMINTS grants</b> Gasconade Co. R-I (Hermann) Jefferson City	<b>ARRA – New Other (non-eMINTS) grants</b> Arcadia Valley R-II (Ironton) Blue Springs R-IV Columbia 93 Eldon R-I Ritenour AND Ferguson-Florissant R-II Nixa R-II

To learn about the projects funded in 2008-09 and their end-of-year reports, see:

<http://dese.mo.gov/divimprove/instrtech/federal/funded/TitleIID/documents/FY09EETPENSummary-WebPosting.pdf>.

**FY09 State Safe Schools Program – Continuation grants awarded**

Missouri House Bill 22 appropriated Federal Budget Stabilization Funding for continued support of the Safe Schools grant program. This funding supports the following 41 continuation grants (existing projects).

Grant-recipient District	Grant Type	Grant Year	Grant-recipient District	Grant Type	Grant Year
Allen Village Charter	D	4	Mexico 59	D	4
Arcadia Valley R-II	D	4	Mountain Grove R-III	D	4
Bismarck	D	2	Otterville R-VI	D	4
Blue Springs R-IV	D	4	Perry County 32	D	2
Carrollton R-VII	D	4	Portageville	D	4
Chillicothe R-II	C	4	Raymore- Peculiar R-II	D	2
Clinton County R-III	P	2	Richland R-IV	C	4
Crawford County R-I	D	3	Rockwood R-VI	D	4
Dallas County R-I	D	4	Sedalia 200	D	2
De Soto 73	D	4	St. Clair R-XIII	D	4
Eldon R-I	D	4	St. Louis City Public Sc	D	4
Ferguson-Florissant R-II	D	4	St. Joseph	D	4
Genesis School Inc.	D	2	School of the Osage R-II	D	3
Hazelwood	D	4	South Callaway County R-II	D	2
Hollister R-V	D	2	Southern Reynolds R-II	D	4
Humansville R-IV	P	4	Special School District	D	3
Independence 30	D	3	Sullivan	D	2
Jefferson City	D	4	Troy R-III	D	4
Laclede County R-I	D	4	Waynesville R-VI	D	3
Maplewood Richmond Heights	D	4	Wright City R-II	D	2
Maryville R-II	C	5			

*D = District grant P = Partnership grant (2 districts) C = Consortium grant (3 or more districts)*

**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). NOTE: Districts should expect an increase in membership fees for FY11.

**Regular Featured Items**

- Upcoming Conferences
- Grant Funding and Contest Opportunities
- Videoconferences / Collaborative Projects
- From the Mailbag
- Newest eTHEMES
- Updated eTHEMES

[Index by Topics](#)  
[Archives](#)

**District Technology Planning – 204 tech plans require state approval in spring 2010**

Instructional Technology mailed on August 19 packets of information to the 200+ districts and charter schools with technology plans due for state approval in spring 2010. As the packets and the August 20 follow-up listserv messages indicated, these schools must develop and submit new long-range technology plans addressing school years 2010-2011, 2011-2012, and 2012-2013. The plans must be submitted via ePeGS by April 15, with a paper copy of the ePeGS-created plan sent to Instructional Technology by the same date. Panels of readers will review the plans the first week of May. Copies of the letter and guidance documents that were sent, and a copy of the Warren county plan that was considered a model in the 2009 review, can be accessed from the District Planning website at:

<http://dese.mo.gov/divimprove/instrtech/techplan/>.

**2009 ePeGS LESSONS LEARNED –**

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.

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.

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).

**Census of Technology – 2009 Data summary**

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!

**Selected data from 2009 Census of Technology (Part II)**

**N = 551 districts and charter schools**

**N= 892,078 Students, K-12**

*Percent faculty/staff in the school building at each skill level of education technology use*

FACULTY/STAFF	Beginner	Intermediate	Advanced
Administrator(s)	4%	65%	31%
Teachers	12%	60%	27%
Support services staff	25%	53%	21%

**Computing Devices by Age and Location in School Buildings**

Computing Device	Computer Labs	Class Rooms					Total Class Rooms	LMCs	Total Instruct. Rooms	Offices	Total
		K-2	3-5	6-9	9-12	ACC					
<b>APPLE/MAC</b>											
Less Than 1 Year	2308	419	939	685	1509	154	3706	286	6300	215	6515
1 – 3 Years	6106	2349	3145	3295	3090	208	12087	2083	20276	626	20902
4 – 5 Years	2775	1291	1528	1655	738	155	5367	916	9058	255	9313
6 Years or More	1746	1820	1582	1285	1110	191	5988	454	8188	152	8340
Sub-total	12935	5879	7194	6920	6447	708	27148	3739	43822	1248	45070
<b>PC/PC Compatible</b>											
Less Than 1 Year	15291	2753	4366	4409	8128	1122	20778	3177	39246	2687	41933

1 – 3 Years	41323	10735	16484	15543	24591	3288	70641	10271	122235	9886	132121
4 – 5 Years	25361	8940	13167	11134	17301	3089	53631	7017	86009	5770	91779
6 Years or More	11308	6792	8440	6413	7594	1169	30408	3227	44943	2573	47516
Sub-total	93283	29220	42457	37499	57614	8668	175458	23692	292433	20916	313349
Total Computers	106218	35099	49651	44419	64061	9376	202606	27431	336255	22164	358419
Students to Computer Ratios	8.40	5.79	4.11	4.56	4.41	Na	4.40	Na	2.65	Na	2.49
<b>HANDHELDS</b>	1004	1461	4194	2817	2607	207	11286	827	13117	1377	14494
<b>Total Devices</b>	<b>107222</b>	<b>36560</b>	<b>53845</b>	<b>47236</b>	<b>66668</b>	<b>9583</b>	<b>213892</b>	<b>28258</b>	<b>349372</b>	<b>23541</b>	<b>372913</b>
Ratios	8.32	5.56	3.79	4.28	4.24	Na	4.17	Na	2.55	Na	2.39

#### Internet-Connected Computing Devices by Location in School Building

All Computing Devices –	Computer Labs	Class Rooms					Total Class Rooms	LMCs	Total Instruct. Rooms	Offices	Total
		K-2	3-5	6-9	9-12	ACC					
Internet-connected	108211	34429	50884	44054	65304	8703	203374	27794	339379	23458	362837
Ratios	8.24	5.90	4.01	4.59	4.33	Na	4.39	Na	2.63	Na	2.46

#### Room Technology by type and location within school building

Rooms with...	Computer Labs	Class Rooms					LMCs	Total Instruct. Rooms	Offices	Total
		K-2	3-5	6-9	9-12	ACC				
[Total Rooms]	4,173	14,135	13,453	14,336	19,588	1,996	2,293	69,974	13,356	83,332
Telephone access	71% 2,966	66% 9,259	65% 8,780	67% 9,645	70% 13,788	74% 1,474	88% 2,020	68% 47,932	96% 12,831	73% 60,763
Internet access (wired or wireless)	99% 4,120	99% 14,010	99% 13,324	99% 14,172	99% 19,485	97% 1,942	97% 2,218	99% 69,271	98% 13,045	99% 82,316
one or more multimedia equipped computers	96% 4,003	96% 13,568	96% 12,945	96% 13,710	95% 18,653	92% 1,846	94% 2,147	96% 66,872	93% 12,395	95% 79,267
one or more multimedia computers connected to Internet	95% 3,978	95% 13,407	95% 12,813	94% 13,470	94% 18,492	91% 1,817	92% 2,116	94% 66,093	91% 12,149	94% 78,242
Internet-connected multimedia computer(s) and access to a printer, and a dedicated projection device	75% 3,112	52% 7,375	65% 8,693	57% 8,115	55% 10,709	37% 737	59% 1,357	57% 40,098	19% 2,535	51% 42,633

#### Typical/average timeframe for resolving minor or routine technical problems/repairs

NUMBER WORKING DAYS	Buildings	Percent
1 day	1,084	48%
2 to 3 days	886	39%
4 to 6 days	187	8%
7 to 10 days	59	3%
Over 10 days	34	2%

#### Percent of computers in working order on a typical/average day

**Median = 98%.**

#### School buildings connected to Internet by bandwidth and delivery mode

BANDWIDTH	Buildings	Percent	DELIVERY MODE	Buildings	Percent
56kb – 384 kb	20	1%	Copper line	556	25%
385kb – 1.4mb	91	4%	Fiber	1,470	65%
1.5mb (T1) – 9.9mb	1,062	47%	DSL	97	4%
10mb – 45mb	523	23%	Satellite	4	<1%
45mb – 100mb	277	12%	Other:	106	5%
>100mb	273	12%	None/Unknown	17	1%
None	4	<1%			

#### Estimated percentage of computers connected to school building LAN/WAN

**Median = 100%**

#### Distance learning system(s) available to students in school building

DISTANCE LEARNING SYSTEM	Buildings	Percent
I-TV: two-way interactive (audio and video) television	430	19%
Desktop video conferencing: two-way interactive instruction	345	15%
Web-based online instruction via Internet: non-interactive	1,271	56%
Satellite: one-way instructional video	218	10%
Cable TV: one-way instructional video	1,064	47%

Other:	130	6%
None	423	19%

*Percent administrators, teachers, and students routinely using following applications*

APPLICATION	Administrators	Teachers	Students
Educational software	53%	83%	80%
Email	98%	98%	15%
EBSCO host	17%	26%	24%
Electronic encyclopedia	20%	36%	38%
Newsbank	10%	15%	13%

*Percent administrators, teachers, and students routinely using computers for following functions*

FUNCTION	Administrators	Teachers	Students
Produce media, web, or multimedia products to demonstrate learning, make presentations	70%	69%	52%
Produce written or print products to demonstrate learning, make presentations	85%	86%	64%
Communicate with peers, experts, others	96%	95%	26%
Communicate with parents and students	90%	86%	19%
Conduct online research	85%	83%	62%
Participate in online courses (this year)	16%	19%	5%
Manage student records (spreadsheet/database)	91%	89%	Na
Track student performance	90%	89%	Na
Assess student performance	81%	85%	Na
Deliver and present instruction	48%	77%	Na
Prepare lesson plan(s)	Na	81%	Na

*Percent teaching staff fully integrating technology into curriculum and instruction.*

Median = 70%

*School (or district) supported technology-mediated feedback. (Check ALL that apply)*

FEEDBACK SYSTEM	Buildings	Percent
Automated absentee system	774	34%
Electronic bulletin board	666	30%
Email	2,194	98%
Homework hotline via web	488	23%
Homework hotline via telephone	289	13%
Listservs	322	14%
Voice Mail	1,445	64%
Other:	719	32%
None	26	1%

## STATE AND NATIONAL NEWS

### DESE posts new Literacy and MSIP standards

<http://dese.mo.gov/divimprove/>

- **Proposed Information Literacy Standards.** DESE is soliciting comments and suggestions on a draft document for "Information, Communications Technology, and Media Literacy" Grade-level and Course-level Expectations. These standards will replace the former Information Literacy strand in Communication Arts and will apply to all content areas. Comments must be received by November 2, 2009.
  - [Information Memo/Feedback Form](#)
  - [Grade-Level Expectations \(K-8\)](#)
  - [Course Expectations \(9-12\)](#)
- **Proposed Revisions to MSIP Standards.** DESE is soliciting feedback on [proposed revisions in regulations](#) for the "5th cycle" of the Missouri School Improvement Program. The revisions, which must be approved by the State Board of Education, would take effect in 2011. There also will be a formal comment period in October, after the Secretary of State publishes the proposed revisions.

**State and National News, cont'd.****NAEP posts framework for technology literacy assessment**

<http://www.edgateway.net/cs/naepsci/print/docs/470>

The 2012 NAEP Technological Literacy Framework Discussion Draft is available for public viewing and comment. [See Outreach section to read and comment on the framework draft.] The process for developing the framework and specifications is comprehensive, inclusive, and deliberative, drawing on broad perspectives and expertise. A steering committee and a planning committee will together develop the framework and specification for final approval by the governing board.

Note that the test has three parts, one of which aligns well with most states' definition of technology literacy (for Title II.D) and Missouri's new ICTM GLEs and CLEs. The State Educational Technology Directors Association (SETDA) has voiced serious concerns to the National Assessment Governing Board, the independent panel that sets policy for the NAEP test. In its letter to NAGB, SETDA wrote that if the three proposed areas of NAEP tech literacy are reported to the public as one test score, those results "will not have any relevance to the states' adopted definitions of technological literacy or reported results," which will "cause confusion across states and by federal policy-makers," the authors of the letter assert. SETDA asked the governing board to consider two-part solution: divide the NAEP tech-literacy assessment into the three sections being proposed and report them separately, rather than as a composite score. That way, they won't "conflict with federal laws or state and national efforts." The letter-writers also want the test to be given a name that clearly spells out what the NAEP is testing in tech-lit, like "technology and engineering" or "technology and innovation."

**eMINTS and East Newton School District featured in national Title I & Title IID resource**

<http://www.setda.org/web/guest/title>

The National Association for State Title I Directors (NASTID) and the State Educational Technology Directors Association (SETDA) released two coordinated reports in a resource entitled, *Leveraging Title I & Title IID: Maximizing the Impact of Technology in Education: A Resource Guide Identifying Technology Tools for Schools*.

- [Leveraging Title I & Title IID: Maximizing the Impact of Technology in Education](#) provides general background information on the power of technology in the classroom including research, rational and examples with data on increased student achievement levels. The eMINTS professional development and instructional model is included as a "comprehensive model" making a difference, highlighting the **East Newton School District** which received a Title II.D competitive grant to implement eMINTS in two Title I elementary schools, resulting in improved student behaviors and academic achievement.
- [Technology Tools Resource Guide](#) provides definitions of key technology components and relevant examples, where appropriate as a glossary for educators. The guide also presents essential implementation and infrastructure considerations that decision makers should think about when implementing technology in schools to help close the achievement gap and best prepare our students for a 21st Century workforce. Technology enhances administrative, teacher and student capabilities and performance, especially for those students who lack access to technology outside of school.

**President signs proclamation for October National Cyber Security Awareness Month**

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

President Obama has proclaimed that October is National Cyber Security Awareness Month (NCSAM). Conducted every October since 2001, NCSAM is a national public awareness campaign to encourage everyone to protect their computers and our nation's critical cyber infrastructure. While Cyber security requires vigilance 365 days per year, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), the National Cyber Security Alliance (NCSA), and the Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center (MS-ISAC), the primary drivers of NCSAM, coordinate to shed a brighter light in October on what home users, schools, businesses and governments need to do in order to protect their computers, children, and data.

The theme this year is "Our Shared Responsibility." In 2008, National Cyber Security Awareness Month reached more than 29 million Americans through media, middle school and high school lesson plans, and partnerships with dozens of companies and associations. In addition, the President declared support for National Cyber Security Awareness Month, the U.S. Senate passed a resolution in support of the month, and 41 state governors signed proclamations recognizing the month. Learn how you can get involved by visiting [www.uscert.gov](http://www.uscert.gov), [www.staysafeonline.org](http://www.staysafeonline.org) or

**State and National News, cont'd.**

[www.msisac.org](http://www.msisac.org).

**FCC launches National Broadband Plan website, seeks input**

<http://www.fcc.gov/recovery/broadband/>

At the request of Congress, the FCC has created a [National Broadband Plan](#), created the corresponding [US Educational Broadband Planning](#) website, and is seeking input about the National Broadband Plan from the public. Within the plan, Congress called for an examination of the National Purposes of Broadband ("if we build it, what's it good for?"). The website is devoted to the questions of the national purposes for the education system in the U.S. and includes education from pre-kindergarten through graduate studies.

Below are a number of questions to consider. Please provide the FCC with any ideas you have, exemplars you know of, and also please read and vote thoughtfully about the ideas that others post.

- What kinds of research and development are needed to make broadband use effective for learning?
- What strategies can be employed to help children use broadband-based technology to learn and express themselves together in new ways, including through use of blogs and wikis?
- Where are examples of educators or technologies using broadband today in a way that allowing their students to learn and grow in more meaningful ways?

**RESEARCH, PUBLICATIONS, RESOURCES****New resource “Leveraging Title I & Title IID: Maximizing the Impact of Technology in Education: A Resource Guide Identifying Technology Tools for Schools”**

<http://www.setda.org/web/guest/title>

The National Association for State Title I Directors (NASTID) and the State Educational Technology Directors Association (SETDA) released two coordinated reports in a resource entitled, *Leveraging Title I & Title IID: Maximizing the Impact of Technology in Education: A Resource Guide Identifying Technology Tools for Schools*. This resource will serve as a guide and a glossary of terms around products, models, strategies and research outlining successful technology integration efforts in schools. NASTID and SETDA developed these documents in the hopes of sparking interest among state, district and school leaders to forge partnerships that leverage Title I and Title IID funding to implement instructional technology programs that individualize instruction for all students and provide teachers with the tools, leadership and training they need to succeed.

The Report: [Leveraging Title I & Title IID: Maximizing the Impact of Technology in Education](#) provides general background information on the power of technology in the classroom including research, rational and examples with data on increased student achievement levels. As an appendix, a [Technology Tools Resource Guide](#) provides definitions of key technology components and relevant examples, where appropriate as a glossary for educators. The guide also presents essential implementation and infrastructure considerations that decision makers should think about when implementing technology in schools to help close the achievement gap and best prepare our students for a 21st Century workforce. Technology enhances administrative, teacher and student capabilities and performance, especially for those students who lack access to technology outside of school.

**National Ed Tech Plan: New website open for comments**

<https://edtechfuture.org>

The U.S. Department of Education 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 draft plan is expected in early 2010.

**Revised draft of 'Common Core' standards unveiled**

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

The Common Core State Standards Initiative is a joint effort by the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices (NGA Center) and the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) in partnership with Achieve, ACT and the College Board. Governors and state commissioners of education from across the country committed to

**Research, Publications, Resources, cont'd.**

joining a state-led process to develop a common core of state standards in English-language arts and mathematics for grades K-12. By design, the standards will be research and evidence-based, internationally benchmarked, aligned with college and work expectations and include rigorous content and skills. The NGA Center and CCSSO are coordinating the process to develop these standards and have created an expert validation committee to provide an independent review of the common core state standards, as well as the grade-by-grade standards.

**ERIC library to expand, improve under new contract**

<http://eric.ed.gov>

The U.S. Department of Education will spend \$29 million over the next five years to enhance and operate the ERIC digital library of education literature, which offers free access to a broad array of scholarly materials. ERIC is the world's largest and most frequently used digital library of education, containing more than 1.3 million bibliographic records indexed from 1966 to the present. Its website (<http://eric.ed.gov>) provides free access to the ERIC digital library, which received more than 40 million visits in 2008 from educators, researchers, and the general public.

New enhancements included in this five-year contract include:

- Collaboration with the agency's library to digitize and process archival materials related to the history of the Department, such as early 20th century records from the Commissioner of Education
- Enhanced online submission format allowing Department of Education grantees and contractors to easily submit reports and related published research
- Establishment of a Library Committee, composed of school, academic, and special librarians who will recommend journals and sources, changes to the ERIC Thesaurus, and services and outreach
- Optical Character Recognition (OCR) of 486,000 digitized microfiche documents to ensure universal access

The ERIC website provides an alphabetical list of more than 984 journals currently indexed in the digital library. Other materials-including research syntheses, conference papers, technical reports, and policy papers -are also indexed from more than 760 sources. More than 20 percent of the collection is full-text materials. ERIC, one of the longest-running services offered by the department of education, is part of the National Library of Education in the Institute of Education Sciences.

**E-RATE PROGRAM**

**Funding Year 2009:** USAC will release FY2009 **Wave 21** Funding Commitment Decision Letters (FCDLs) on **October 1** that includes commitments for approved Priority 1 requests (Telecommunications Services and Internet Access) for schools and libraries at all discount levels. As of September 29, FY2009 commitments total \$1.02 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.

Notes: In a recent Schools and Libraries Committee Board meeting, USAC approved a recommendation to the FCC requesting authorization to issue commitments for priority two requests at 85% and above for the 2009 E-rate Funding Year. On July 31, the FCC authorized \$900 million in unused funds from previous years to be used to supplement the amount of funding available for FY 2009. In addition, USAC is seeking authorization to deny Funding Year 2009 priority two requests at or below the 60% discount rate as there is not enough available funding for these requests.

**eMINTS UPDATE**

*submitted by Lorie Kaplan*

**eMINTS Rocks: Synthesizing a Decade of Change 10th Annual Winter Conference**

The 10th Anniversary eMINTS Winter Conference planning committee invites the submission of proposals for 1-hour presentations and 3-hour pre-conference workshops at the annual eMINTS Winter Conference to be held in Columbia, MO, March 3 - 5, 2010.

- **Deadline for submissions - November 15, 2009**
- Notification of acceptance - December 5, 2009

**eMINTS Update, cont'd.**

- Find details and submit proposals online at <http://www.emints.org/events/winter2010/presenter.shtml>
- Online registration opens in December.
- Watch the conference website for more information about special 10th anniversary events – <http://www.emints.org/events/winter2010/>

**ISTE Seal of Alignment for eMINTS PD materials and refreshed NETS for Teachers**

The eMINTS National Center sought a NETS for Teachers 2008 review of its Comprehensive Professional Development Program for an ISTE Seal of Alignment for Development. The ISTE review team evaluated eMINTS' 36 PD modules and "found the eMINTS curriculum for professional development we [ISTE review team] reviewed is of excellent quality and contains rich examples of how to meet the refreshed NETS for Teachers." Find more details from the eMINTS website - <http://www.emints.org/programs/index.shtml>.

**Changes to eMINTS National Center personnel**

With the addition of the Missouri Virtual Instruction Program (MoVIP) to the eMINTS National Center's responsibilities, we have realigned the National Center personnel. Monica Beglau will serve as Executive Director over the three programs.

- Lorie Kaplan will oversee the day-to-day operations of eMINTS programs as the eMINTS Director.
- Christie Terry will continue to lead e-Learning for Educators programs with a new title of Program Director.
- Jamie Goodman was recently promoted to MoVIP Director.

Each of these three directors works with program staff in the specific areas they serve and also help Monica Beglau guide the eMINTS National Center as we endeavor to further our mission of transforming education for all learners through high-quality teaching powered by technology.

**eMINTS events on the website**

Find detailed information about upcoming eMINTS events, links to register or RSVP, and maps and driving directions to event locations, all available from the eMINTS National Center website – <http://www.emints.org/events/>.

**Contact eMINTS**

Web – <http://www.emints.org>

E-mail – [emints-info@emints.org](mailto:emints-info@emints.org)

Phone – 573-884-7202

**e-LEARNING FOR EDUCATORS: MISSOURI UPDATE**

*submitted by Christie Terry*

**e-Learning for Educators: Missouri Online Professional Development for Missouri educators**

e-Learning for Educators: Missouri is a program for developing and delivering high quality online professional development designed to increase teacher knowledge and skills to improve student performance. Experienced Missouri educators facilitate and develop online professional development courses for teachers. Collaborators leading the effort include the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), KETC/Channel 9 St. Louis Public Television, Missouri State University and the University of Missouri (eMINTS National Center). Learn more about the program and scholarship opportunities at <http://www.elearningmo.org/>.

**Fall courses begin October 7 and run until November 24.**

- Register online at: <http://www.elearningmo.org/register.html>
- Courses Cost: \$125/course
- Optional Graduate Credit: \$100/credit hour
- Learn more about graduate credit options at: <http://elearningmo.org/gradcredit/>

**Fall 2009 Courses include**

- Promoting Reading Comprehension Skills in the Elementary Classroom
- Promoting Reading Comprehension Skills in the Middle School Classroom
- Using Technology in the Elementary Math Classroom

**e-Learning for Educators: Missouri Update, cont'd.**

- Science in the Living World
- Motion and Force in Your World
- Science 2.0 Using Web Tools to Promote Inquiry-based Science
- Proportional Reasoning
- 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
- Getting Started in the School Library Profession: A course for new library media specialists
- Proportional Reasoning
- Personal Finance: A course for new instructors of Personal Finance

**Contact e-Learning for Educators**

- Web – <http://www.elearningmo.org/>
- E-mail – [elearning@missouri.edu](mailto:elearning@missouri.edu)
- Phone – 573-884-4233

**UPCOMING CONFERENCES**

<b>2009</b>	<b>Conference</b>
October 18 – 20	<b>MOREnet Instructional Technology Conference</b> MITC 2009 "Reaching the Digital Age Learner" Tan-Tar-A Resort, Osage Beach, MO <a href="http://guest.cvent.com/i.aspx?5S,M3,c804bfdb-1a50-4cac-a469-8e74ce407574">http://guest.cvent.com/i.aspx?5S,M3,c804bfdb-1a50-4cac-a469-8e74ce407574</a>
October 21	<b>Missouri Student Success Network</b> Missouri Administrators of Alternative Schools Network Workshop Harry S. Truman Bldg., 301 West High Street, Jefferson City, MO Room 490 <a href="http://apps.oseda.missouri.edu/MsnRegistration/">http://apps.oseda.missouri.edu/MsnRegistration/</a>
<b>2010</b>	
February 8 – 10	<b>Midwest Educational Technology Conference "Reaching Beyond the Cloud"</b> St. Charles Convention Center in St. Charles, MO <a href="http://metconference.org/moodle2010/">http://metconference.org/moodle2010/</a>

**GRANT FUNDING and CONTEST OPPORTUNITIES**

<b>Due Date</b>	<b>Grant Program</b>
<b>2009</b>	
October 23	<b>Student Climate Change Solutions Contest</b> in Progress for K-4th graders. <a href="http://www.earthday.net/climatechangesolutionscontest">http://www.earthday.net/climatechangesolutionscontest</a> for contest guidelines and a corresponding climate change lesson plan themed around the "think green for kids" book, <i>Planet Earth Gets Well</i> . <a href="http://www.planeteearthgetswell.com/">http://www.planeteearthgetswell.com/</a> This book is currently available at a discounted rate for teachers.
November 2	<b>Youth Garden Grants</b> <a href="http://www.kidsgardening.com/YGG.asp">http://www.kidsgardening.com/YGG.asp</a> Deadline: To help students reap rewards and vital life lessons from working in gardens and habitats.
November 2	<b>I Am What I Learn Video Contest for students from U.S. Dept. of Ed</b> Create a PSA, video blog, music video, animation, documentary, or other video that answers

**Grant Funding and Contest Opportunities, cont'd.**

	the question: Why is your education important to fulfilling your dreams? <a href="http://www.ed.gov/iamwhatilearn/index.html">http://www.ed.gov/iamwhatilearn/index.html</a>
December 1	<b>Dairy MAX School Breakfast Grant</b> <a href="http://www.healthinschools.org/News-Room/Grant-Alerts/School-Wellness-through-Expanding-Breakfast-Grant-Program.aspx">http://www.healthinschools.org/News-Room/Grant-Alerts/School-Wellness-through-Expanding-Breakfast-Grant-Program.aspx</a> Up to \$1,000 per school to improve student access to nutritious breakfasts
<b>2010</b>	
March 1	<b>Mantis Awards for Community and Youth Gardens</b> <a href="http://www.kidsgardening.com/grants/mantis-criteria.asp">http://www.kidsgardening.com/grants/mantis-criteria.asp</a>
<b>Ongoing</b>	
August 19 through January 31	<b>The Siemens We Can Change the World Challenge</b> <a href="http://wecanchange.com/">http://wecanchange.com/</a>
Variety	<b>Dollar General</b> has a variety of grants to assist schools. <a href="http://www.dollargeneral.com/servingothers/Pages/GrantPrograms.aspx">http://www.dollargeneral.com/servingothers/Pages/GrantPrograms.aspx</a>
February, May, August, November	<b>Build-A-Bear Workshop Giving Programs</b> <a href="http://www.buildabear.com/aboutus/community/grants">http://www.buildabear.com/aboutus/community/grants</a>
Ongoing	<b>Coca-Cola Foundation Education Grants</b> <a href="http://www.thecoca-colacompany.com/">http://www.thecoca-colacompany.com/</a>
Ongoing	<b>Educational Foundation of America Grants</b> <a href="http://www.efaw.org/">http://www.efaw.org/</a>
Ongoing	<b>ING Foundation Educational Grants</b> <a href="http://www.ing-usa.com/us/aboutING/CorporateCitizenship/index.htm">http://www.ing-usa.com/us/aboutING/CorporateCitizenship/index.htm</a>
Ongoing	<b>Kinder Morgan Foundation Education Grants</b> <a href="http://www.kindermorgan.com/community/km_foundation.cfm">http://www.kindermorgan.com/community/km_foundation.cfm</a>
Ongoing	<b>Lowe's Toolbox for Education Grant</b> <a href="http://www.toolboxforeducation.com/">http://www.toolboxforeducation.com/</a>
Ongoing	<b>Motorola Community Grants</b> <a href="http://www.symbol.com/category.php/?category=736">http://www.symbol.com/category.php/?category=736</a>
Ongoing	<b>Motorola Foundation</b> <a href="http://www.motorola.com/giving">http://www.motorola.com/giving</a>
June 1, October 15, February 1	<b>NEA Foundation Green Grants</b> This year the program emphasizes "green" projects that involve students learning about and engaging in environmental preservation and protection. <a href="http://www.neafoundation.org/grants">www.neafoundation.org/grants</a> .
Ongoing	<b>NEA Foundation Student Achievement Grants</b> <a href="http://www.neafoundation.org/programs/StudentAchievement_Guidelines.htm">http://www.neafoundation.org/programs/StudentAchievement_Guidelines.htm</a>
Ongoing	<b>NEA Learning &amp; Leadership Grants</b> <a href="http://www.neafoundation.org/pages/educators/grant-programs/">http://www.neafoundation.org/pages/educators/grant-programs/</a>
Ongoing	<b>Pay It Forward Mini-Grants for Service-Oriented Projects for Youths</b> <a href="http://www.payitforwardfoundation.org/get_involved.html">http://www.payitforwardfoundation.org/get_involved.html</a>

**Grant Funding and Contest Opportunities, cont'd.**

Ongoing	<b>RGK Foundation Education Grants</b> <a href="http://www.rgkfoundation.org/public/grants">http://www.rgkfoundation.org/public/grants</a>
Ongoing	<b>Robert H. Michel Special Project Grants</b> <a href="http://www.dirksencenter.org/print_grants_specialprojects.htm">http://www.dirksencenter.org/print_grants_specialprojects.htm</a>
Ongoing	<b>State Farm Companies Foundation Education Grants</b> <a href="http://www.statefarm.com/about/part_spos/grants/foundation_grants.asp">http://www.statefarm.com/about/part_spos/grants/foundation_grants.asp</a>
Ongoing	<b>Toshiba America Foundation 7-12 Math and Science Grants</b> <a href="http://www.toshiba.com/tafpub/jsp/about/HowApply.jsp">http://www.toshiba.com/tafpub/jsp/about/HowApply.jsp</a>

**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/4edfrai.htm>

**Fundsnet Online Services:** <http://www.fundsnetervices.com/searchresult.php?sbcid=6>

\* Computers & technology – <http://www.fundsnetervices.com/searchresult.php?sbcid=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>

### **Grant Funding and Contest Opportunities, cont'd.**

**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 <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](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](http://www.sun.com/aboutsun/comm_invest/ogp/index.html)

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

**Top Grants You Might Not Know About** <http://www.hotchalk.com/mydesk/index.php/editorial/116-grants-and-contests/346-hotchalk-grants-and-contests>

**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

**Grant Funding and Contest Opportunities, cont'd.**

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)

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/](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>

**VIDEOCONFERENCES / COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS**

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

Contact RoundTrips at [roundtrips@clayton.k12.mo.us](mailto: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](mailto: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>

**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](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://virtualfieldtrip.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

**Videoconferences / Collaborative Projects, cont'd.**

- California to Mexico, and the Indianapolis Motor Speedway. Includes low-cost Web resources for each lesson. <http://www.bsu.edu/eft/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**

**DINOSAUR TRAIN**, a new series from PBS, embraces and celebrates the fascination that preschoolers have with both dinosaurs and trains. The series encourages basic scientific thinking skills as the audience learns about life science, natural history and paleontology. Each of the 40 half-hour episodes features Buddy, an adorable preschool age Tyrannosaurus Rex, and his adoptive Pteranodon family as they board the DINOSAUR TRAIN and embark on whimsical voyages through prehistoric jungles, swamps, volcanoes and oceans. The episodes include two 11-minute animated stories, along with brief live action segments hosted by renowned paleontologist Dr. Scott Sampson; that unearth basic concepts in life science, natural history and paleontology.

Dinosaur Train Resources for Teachers, include more about the series and its learning goals, episode descriptions and associated lesson plans, about the site and support materials for teachers, kids, and parents and video enhanced lesson plans for your preschool and early elementary classroom. <http://www.pbs.org/teachers/dinosaurtrain/>

**The National Parks: America's Best Idea Classroom Tools**

The new Ken Burns documentary **The National Parks: America's Best Idea** <http://www.pbs.org/nationalparks/> recently premiered on PBS. The companion website has some **great lesson plans** <http://www.pbs.org/nationalparks/for-educators/lesson-plans/> that incorporate a variety of digital storytelling tools including Google Earth. In addition to the lesson plans, PBS has put together **eleven modules** <http://www.pbs.org/nationalparks/for-educators/digital-storytelling/> that will teach students how to create place-based digital stories from start to finish. The digital storytelling modules include screencasts showing each step in the digital story creation process.

Many of the lesson plans provide a great opportunity to combine elements of geography, history, and writing into one lesson. Two great lessons are **Mapping the National Parks** and **Images of the Parks**.

Students don't have to have seen the series to benefit from these lesson plans; clips from the series are available at <http://www.pbs.org/nationalparks/watch-video/#642>

**Free Resources for Teaching & Learning from PBS**

- **PBS Teachers** is PBS' central web destination for all PBS resources for preK-12 educators. PBS Teachers provides thousands of lesson plans, interactive games and simulations, maps, photos, essays and more on all major educational topics for grades preK through 12. Most of the online educational resources can be used as stand-alone resources, apart from their corresponding video programs. Subscribe to the PBS Teachers electronic newsletter to keep up-to-date about the latest new educational PBS programs and websites <http://www.pbs.org/teachers/about/>
- **TeacherLine** is an online service offering professional development courses to individual preK-12 teachers, school districts and states. PBS TeacherLine's courses are developed in collaboration with leading national educational organizations including the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE), National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM), and the Concord Consortium, so every course is standards-driven. Through partnerships with PBS member stations, additional courses aligned with state standards are available. PBS TeacherLine courses are developed from research-based best practices for online courses. PBS TeacherLine currently offers courses in Mathematics, Reading/Language Arts, Science, Instructional Technology, and Instructional Strategies. The price of a particular course can vary due to course length and whether or not graduate or continuing education credit is sought. Prices for courses are very competitive with other online professional development services. <http://www.pbs.org/teacherline/>

*From the Mailbag, cont'd.*

### **Free Resources from the National Institute on Drug Abuse**

Looking for free resources and ideas on how to integrate the science behind drug abuse into classroom activities? Complement lesson plans by using the free online resources from the National Institute on Drug Abuse's (NIDA) *NIDA for Teens* <http://teens.drugabuse.gov/> Web site, a component of the *NIDA Goes Back to School* campaign.

NIDA, part of the National Institutes of Health, has created a Web site to keep youth, parents, and educators in the loop all year long. Teachers can enhance classroom activities <http://www.teens.drugabuse.gov/parents/index.php> with suggested activities, diagrams, and teacher guides. Students can participate in the Sara Bellum Blog, <http://teens.drugabuse.gov/blog/> where teens can join the discussion and learn about drugs and the effects they have on the brain and body. Your students can be the first to interact with a team of NIDA scientists, science writers, and public health analysts. We connect your students with the latest scientific research and news, so they can be empowered to make healthy and smart decisions.

### **PBS Teachers offers free resources and more <http://www.pbs.org/teachers/about/>**

- **PBS Teachers welcomes Janet English to the new Media Infusion Blog.** Each month, Janet will share her award-winning teaching experiences and challenge readers to try new instructional approaches. Teachers will get the chance to embark on a monthly challenge to use great media and enhance their technology skills. This monthly challenge is a great way to improve the craft of teaching and share successes – and learning challenges – with each other. This month, Janet suggests using VoiceThread and clips from Ken Burns's *The National Parks: America's Best Idea* to practice cross-disciplinary narratives.
- **Free Resources for Teaching & Learning** PBS Teachers is PBS' national web destination for high-quality preK-12 educational resources. Here teachers will find classroom materials suitable for a wide range of subjects and grade levels. PBS Teachers provides thousands of lesson plans, teaching activities, on-demand video assets, and interactive games and simulations. These resources are correlated to state and national educational standards and are tied to PBS' award-winning on-air and online programming like *NOVA*, *Nature*, *Cyberchase*, *Between the Lions* and more.
- **Local Resources & Services** PBS Teachers is also the gateway for local resources and services offered by your local PBS station. By localizing this website to their local PBS station, users can gain access to educational resources, programs, TV schedules and more.
- **Professional Development** PBS Teachers provides professional development for educators through PBS TeacherLine <http://www.pbs.org/teacherline/>. As the premier provider of high quality online professional development, PBS TeacherLine has been recognized for excellence by organizations such as the United States Distance Learning Association, the National Educational Association, and the Software and Information Industry Association. The collection of more than 130 top quality, graduate level courses for educators spans the entire curriculum: Reading/Language Arts, Mathematics, Instructional Technology, Instructional Strategies, and Science. And their newest offering, PBS TeacherLine Peer Connection, taps the power of online communication, collaboration, and content to provide a rich, flexible set of tools to help instructional coaches open and maintain productive communications and collaboration with the teachers they support.

### **From GenYes <http://www.genyes.com/>**

Back to school means new pencils, new rulers, and new notebooks, right? Well how about stocking up on some 21st century versions of back to school tools? And yes - all FREE!

- **Etherpad** - collaborative documents with no login or email necessary. Has a cool timeslider feature so you can watch your document as it changed over time. <http://etherpad.com/>
- **Scratch** - an easy to learn programming language for ages 8 and up. Programming is simply one of the best learning experiences for students. It builds logic, higher order thinking skills, and really, it's just plain fun! <http://scratch.mit.edu/>
- **Audacity** - A useful audio recording and editing tool that can be used for any kind of multimedia project. <http://audacity.sourceforge.net/>
- **Wikispaces** - educators can sign up for a free, ad-free wiki for classroom or personal use. <http://www.wikispaces.com/site/for/teachers>
- **Gaggle Student Email** - free email and more. Gaggle has been a Generation YES partner for years, and our schools love the easy to use, protected email for students. <http://www.gaggle.net/>

**From the Mailbag, cont'd.**

- **Google Earth** - if you haven't seen Google Earth lately, take a peek! Google Earth is a super-charged version of the web-based Google Maps. <http://earth.google.com/> Take a tour of the earth, space, moon, or undersea, or add 3D buildings with SketchUp. <http://sketchup.google.com/yourworldin3d/index.html>
- **Prezi** - Tired of boring old one-slide-at-a-time slideshows? Try zooming instead. If some of your students have "done PowerPoint" - let them try Prezi. <http://prezi.com/>
- **Zamzar** - easy online file conversion. Not only does Zamzar convert document and graphic file formats, but also movie formats. It even can save YouTube and other online movies to files for use later. <http://www.zamzar.com/>

**USADA True Sport Program and Awards**

The United States Anti-Doping Agency (USADA) is working together with Discovery Education to promote the virtues of honesty, respect, teamwork, and healthy choices. The USADA and Discovery Education provide a free interactive curriculum supporting ethics and decision making themes for middle school students and athletic programs, and anti-doping themes for high school student and athletic programs. The curriculum includes student tools for smart decision-making, facts on nutrition and dietary supplements, making the connection between body type and body image, how students can improve athletic performance safely and ethically, and the facts about products from dietary supplements and energy drinks to anabolic steroids.

The USADA True Sport Awards program offers the opportunity to enter an existing program or the idea for a new one that promotes the virtues of honesty, respect, teamwork, and healthy choices for recognition by the USADA True Sports Award program. Fifty winners announced in December. <http://usadatruerport.discoveryeducation.com/>

**Fuel Our Future Now** <http://www.fuelourfuturenow.com/> Check out COOL new ways to explore alternative fuels and the science of engineering. With all-new family activities for all grade levels, students can explore eco-friendly ways of traveling on a family road trip or use a bike to investigate vehicle efficiency.

**The Lunch Box - School Food Resource Center** <http://www.thelunchbox.org/>

Web-based portal with recipes, information and tools to make good food available for all kids in school.

**HotChalk Launches Free K-12 Subject Content Portals for Math, Science, and Art** Have you visited HotChalkMath <http://www.hotchalkmath.com/>, HotChalkScience <http://www.hotchalkscience.com/> or HotChalkArt <http://www.hotchalkart.com/>? All contain free content for K-12 educators, students, and parents. Each site contains expert recommendations on classroom content and an educator's toolkit loaded with the latest and best articles, blogs, news, and "tools" relevant to the subject. In the coming weeks, HotChalk sites for ESL, teacher tools, social studies, language arts, and more will be available.

**Carnegie Mellon University software streamlines computer programming**

Carnegie Mellon University has released an updated version of its popular animation-based software program "Alice," developed by the late "last lecture" professor Randy Pausch to teach computer programming. Pausch, a Carnegie Mellon computer science professor and pioneer of virtual reality research, died at age 47 of pancreatic cancer last year, 10 months after giving his "last lecture" about facing death that became an internet sensation and spawned a best-selling book.

What is Alice? Alice is an innovative 3D programming environment that makes it easy to create an animation for telling a story, playing an interactive game, or a video to share on the web. Alice is a teaching tool for introductory computing. It uses 3D graphics and a drag-and-drop interface to facilitate a more engaging, less frustrating first programming experience. Alice is also a teaching tool designed as a revolutionary approach to teaching and learning introductory programming concepts. The Alice team has developed instructional materials to support students and teachers in using this new approach. Resources include textbooks, lessons, sample syllabuses, test banks, and more. Other authors have generously joined our efforts, creating additional textbooks. <http://www.alice.org/>

**From The Center for Implementing Technology in Education (CITEd)**

<http://www.cited.org/index.aspx>

- **Family Online Safety Guide** Have parents expressed concern about their child's safety while using

**From the Mailbag, cont'd.**

technology for school purposes? Help families at your school ease their EdTech worries with this Family Online Safety Guide. [http://www.cited.org/index.aspx?page\\_id=57](http://www.cited.org/index.aspx?page_id=57)

- **Understanding Security and Online Reputation** The American School Counselor Association's iKeepSafe page provides resources that educators can use to help children understand the importance of online security, as well as the impact of their online reputation. [http://www.cited.org/index.aspx?page\\_id=63](http://www.cited.org/index.aspx?page_id=63)
- **Growing Up Online** Looking for ideas for an innovative PD Day? This PBS resource discusses how the internet is transforming the experience of childhood. The documentary, along with a live chat and various reading resources, would allow professionals to focus on the importance of online safety in the classroom. [http://www.cited.org/index.aspx?page\\_id=69](http://www.cited.org/index.aspx?page_id=69)

**From Digital Learning Environment Blogs** at <http://www.guide2digitallearning.com/blog> from the Digital Learning Environment website, dedicated to demonstrating how the technologies available in a digital learning environment can be the catalyst for teaching and learning. Provided by HP and Intel and hosted by Technology & Learning.

- **Successful EdTech: First the Verbs, then the Nouns**  
In this blog entry, Jim Vanides gives a new definition to the correlation of tech and learning [http://www.guide2digitallearning.com/blog\\_jim\\_vanides/successful\\_edtech\\_first\\_verbs\\_then\\_nouns](http://www.guide2digitallearning.com/blog_jim_vanides/successful_edtech_first_verbs_then_nouns) In his entry, he also shares a list of resources that can be found at: <http://www.hongkiat.com/blog/screen-capture-tools-40-free-tools-and-techniques/>
- **Thrill Your Students with Virtual Geography**  
Grant Zimmerman feels "there is no better time to have students use and apply the modern web based mapping applications. Both Microsoft® Bing Earth (formally Virtual Earth) and Google® Earth provide tools to take and create 3-D tours on every ocean and continent. Your students will love leaning about the U.S. and, at the same time, actively participate in creating the map." To read the rest of his entry and access his resources, visit [http://www.guide2digitallearning.com/blog\\_grant\\_zimmerman/thrill\\_your\\_students\\_virtual\\_geography](http://www.guide2digitallearning.com/blog_grant_zimmerman/thrill_your_students_virtual_geography)

**Student Climate Change Solutions Contest** in Progress With the 40th Anniversary of Earth Day approaching, Earth Day Network is holding a back-to-school Student Climate Change Solutions contest for K-4th graders. Winners will be announced by Earth Day Network online and will receive a substantial prize package. Visit <http://www.earthday.net/climatechangesolutionscontest> for contest guidelines and a corresponding climate change lesson plan themed around the "think green for kids" book, *Planet Earth Gets Well*. <http://www.planeteearthgetswell.com/> This book is currently available at a discounted rate for teachers.

**Earth Day Network High School Activist Toolkit to Launch Soon** Earth Day Network has been working with teachers and students to put together a toolkit for young activists, compiling success stories and articles written by students for students on topics such as creative fundraising, harnessing the media, and green project ideas. The Alliance for Climate Education (ACE) assists the Earth Day Network with this site, and visits high schools at no cost to deliver in-person, science-based, multimedia presentations on climate change and what students can do to stop it. Visit Earth Day Network <http://www.earthday.net/education> for further updates and information.

**Webmath** is a math-help website that generates answers to specific math questions and problems, as entered by a user, at any particular moment. The math answers are generated and displayed real-time, at the moment a web user types in their math problem and clicks "solve." In addition to the answers, Webmath also shows the student how to arrive at the answer. Includes sections on Math for Everyone, General Math, K-8, Algebra, Plots and Geometry, Trig and Calculus, and "Other Stuff." <http://www.webmath.com/>

**Congress for Kids** <http://www.congressforkids.net>

**New Smithsonian site lets teachers and students create short historical movies "Picturing the 1930s,"** [http://americanart.si.edu/education/picturing\\_the\\_1930s/](http://americanart.si.edu/education/picturing_the_1930s/) a new educational website created by the Smithsonian American Art Museum in collaboration with the University of Virginia, allows teachers and students to explore the 1930s through paintings, artist memorabilia, historical documents, newsreels, period photographs, music,

**From the Mailbag, cont'd.**

and video. Using **PrimaryAccess**, <http://www.primaryaccess.org/pa.php?act=4111> a web-based teaching tool developed at the university's Curry Center for Technology and Teacher Education, <http://www.teacherlink.org/> visitors can select images, write text, and record narration in the style of a documentary filmmaker. They can then screen their video in a virtual theater.

**NEWEST eTHEMES**

**Animals: Birds of Prey** These sites are about birds of prey, or raptors. Here you will find information about owls, eagles, hawks, and falcons. There are coloring pages, quizzes, audio recordings, and many pictures. Includes related eThemes resources on owls and raptors for older students.

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002473.shtml>

**Math: Math Dictionaries** These sites have online dictionaries that provide definitions of mathematical terms. There are illustrations, audio clips, usage examples, interactives, and more.

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002490.shtml>

**Native Americans: Maine Tribes** These resources are about the Native peoples of present day Maine. Here you will find information about the Passamaquoddy, Penobscots, Micmac, Maliseet, Abenaki, and Wabenaki Indian tribes. Learn about their traditional arts and crafts, transportation, languages, and more. There are timelines, maps, and many pictures. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002472.shtml>

**Oceans and Climate** These sites focus on oceans and climate. Learn why oceans are a major influence on weather and climate. Includes animated illustrations and discussion questions. There are also links to eThemes Resources on Global Warming, Geography: Oceans, Oceanography, and Weather: Clouds and Cycles.

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002487.shtml>

**Reading Skills: Making Predictions** These sites focus on making predictions as a reading strategy that students can use before and during reading. Learn different strategies such as using first lines, titles, pictures, and more to make predictions. Includes examples, graphic organizers, video clips, slides, lesson plans, and online activities. There is also a link to eThemes Resource on Reading Skills: Inference for Elementary School Students.

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002484.shtml>

**Science: Lab Safety** These sites are about laboratory safety and how to use lab equipment. There are interactive games, quizzes, worksheets, and podcasts. Includes two eThemes resources on Scientific Method and Scientific Principles. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002481.shtml>

**UPDATED eTHEMES**

**100th Day of School** Celebrate the 100th day of school with these ideas. See lesson plans, activities, printable worksheets, poems, and craft ideas shared by teachers from all over. Sites include activities for Language Arts, Math, Social Studies, and Science for elementary and middle school students.

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00001394.shtml>

**Adoption** These sites provide information about open and closed adoptions, adoption procedures, costs, and practices of adoption in the US as compared to foreign countries. Some sites also provide statistics regarding the most common foreign countries adoptions are from and most common ages of children adopted.

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002087.shtml>

**Advertisements** These sites focus on advertisements and how to identify intended messages conveyed through oral and visual media. Lesson plans, classroom activities, interactive games, pictures, and video clips are included. There is a link to the eThemes resource on Writing Advertisements.

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00001823.shtml>

**Aerodynamics for High School** Learn about aerodynamics and related physics laws. Includes tutorials, presentations, interactive simulations, and experiments. There are also links to eThemes Resources on

**Updated eTHEMES, cont'd.**

Aerodynamics, Science: Rockets, and Aviation: Wright Brothers.

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002389.shtml>

**Aerodynamics** Learn about the study of gases in motion called aerodynamics. Find out how this science applies to airplanes, parachutes, cars, bridges, buildings, living things, kites, and more. Learn Bernoulli's principle, laws of aerodynamics, and basics of forces of gravity, lift, drag, and thrust. Get acquainted with shock waves, propulsion, and other forces. There are links to eThemes Resources on related topics of gravity, aviation and aircrafts, parachutes, and water-bottle rockets. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00001647.shtml>

**Africa: Adinkra Cloths** These sites show and tell about the history of adinkra cloths, an art form from the Asante people of Ghana and the Gyaman people of Cote' d'Ivoire. Includes sites about the Ashanti tribe that also wears this type of clothing. There are also related eThemes sites on Africa and Ghana.

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000465.shtml>

**Africa: National Parks**

These sites are about Africa's National Parks. Learn about the animals, the climate, and the purposes behind why National Parks play an important role in Africa. Includes a link to an eThemes resource on the continent of Africa.

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002215.shtml>

**Animals: Black-Faced Spoonbills** These sites are about black-faced spoonbills, a species of wetland birds living along eastern Asia's coastline. Learn about their physical characteristics, behavior, present status, distribution, and migration patterns. Find out the threats they face and the steps that have been taken to conserve them. There is a link to an eThemes Resource on endangered species. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00001113.shtml>

**Animals: Corn Snakes**

These sites are about corn snakes, which are popular classroom pets. Learn about the corn snake's characteristics, habitat, behavior, and food. Includes many tips for caring for a snake in the classroom. There is a link to an eThemes Resource on snakes. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000976.shtml>

**Animals: Missouri Turtles**

These sites are about Missouri turtles, including snapping turtles, alligator snapping turtles, stinkpot turtles, three-toed box turtles, and ornate box turtles. Learn about the physical characteristics, diet, reproduction, habitat, and behaviors of each type. View several photographs of these turtles in the wild.

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00001079.shtml>

**Animals: Mountain Goats**

These sites are about mountain goats, including their characteristics, diet, habitat, and more. Watch videos of baby goats, listen to audio clips of their bleating, and view a map showing where they live.

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000952.shtml>

**Animals: Raptors** These sites have information about various raptors, including Screech Owls, Great Horned Owls, Red-Tailed Hawks, and Bald Eagles. Many sites contain audio and video clips, plus a Webcam. Includes links to eThemes Resources on owl pellets, barn owls, spotted owls, and birds of prey for younger students.

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000442.shtml>

**Assembly Line Production**

Learn about assembly lines and how they work. Read about Henry Ford and his Model T assembly lines. These sites cover the principles of mass production and industry. Includes movies of assembly lines, historical photos of workers, and lesson plans. There are links to two eThemes on economics.

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000484.shtml>

**Author Study: Edgar Allan Poe**

Learn more about American Gothic author Edgar Allan Poe. Includes full-text versions of his stories and poems, plus information about his life. There are lesson plans and suggested classroom activities. Includes an eThemes resource on the short story "The Fall of the House of Usher." <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00001127.shtml>

**Updated eTHEMES, cont'd.**

**Aviation: Wright Brothers.** These sites are about the Wright Brothers and their early airplanes. Includes biographies on Wilbur and Orville that tell about their family and careers. Discover what inspired them to build planes. Contains historical photographs, movies, diaries, interviews, and simulations. There are links to eThemes Resources on Transportation: Aircraft, Aviation: Military Aircraft, and Aviation: Activities for Junior and High School Students. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00001018.shtml>

**Awards and Certificates**

These sites have awards and certificates for students and parents that can be printed out. The awards are for different occasions such as attendance, academic achievement, sportsmanship, lost tooth, appreciation, birthday, Mother's Day, Father's Day, and more. Some sites let you design the award and include a personal message. Other sites allow you to print awards with students' names on them. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000717.shtml>

**Communication Arts: Public Service Announcements**

These sites are about producing public service announcements (PSAs). Learn techniques on scripting writing and story boarding. A number of examples of audio and video PSAs can be found. Teaching plans are also included. There are also links to eThemes Resources on writing persuasion and advertisements. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00001994.shtml>

**Debate**

These sites offer tips and activity ideas for sponsoring classroom debates at various grade levels. Learn how to prepare for a debate and how to improve your presentation skills. Includes transcripts and video clips of presidential debates from 1960-2008. There are links to eThemes Resources on Persuasive Speeches, Debate Topic: Year Round School, and Writing: Purpose. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000980.shtml>

**Desert: Survival Skills**

These sites offer tips on how to survive in the desert. Topics include preparation, supplies, and what to do if you become stranded. Learn how desert people live and survive in the harsh environment. Includes a diary and a webcast. There are also links to eThemes Resources on desert habitats and desert animals. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000659.shtml>

**Dictionaries**

These sites have online dictionaries that let students enter words to find definitions and parts of speech. There are also picture dictionaries for younger students, crossword puzzles, and other vocabulary tools. Includes a link to eThemes Resource on dictionary skills. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000093.shtml>

**Dictionary Skills**

These websites are about using a dictionary. Includes information about guide words, parts of speech, pronunciation keys, and entry words. There are worksheets, definitions, games, lesson plans, tutorials, and more. Check out the link to eThemes resources on online dictionaries and parts of speech. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00001465.shtml>

**Economics: Taxes**

These sites explain the U.S. taxation system and how it works. Learn about the different types of taxes through classroom activities and discussion questions. Also covers the services that local, state, and federal governments provide with tax money. Includes games, lesson plans, quizzes, tutorials, and simulations. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000863.shtml>

**Stock Market** These sites are about the stock market. Learn about stocks, shares, markets, and investing. Find out about the history of the New York Stock Exchange and "Black Tuesday" that precipitated the Great Depression. There are interactive games where you can "play the market," timelines, interviews, and quizzes. Included is an eThemes resource on personal finance. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00001931.shtml>

**Student Council Activities: Elementary School** These sites have many project ideas for elementary school student councils. Includes several student council sites. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000419.shtml>

**Updated eTHEMES, cont'd.**

**Teaching Tips: Team Building Activities for Middle School Students** These websites have suggestions for games, activities, and lesson plans to encourage team building among middle school students. There are activities for indoors or out, and cross-curricular lesson plans that incorporate problem solving and role playing. Included is an eThemes resource on cooperative learning strategies. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00001825.shtml>

**Transportation: Trains**

Read all about railroads and trains. View historical photographs of trains or tune in to live shots from Webcams. There are also audio and video files about this mode of transportation. Includes a link to an eThemes Resource on the transcontinental railroad. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000481.shtml>

**Writing: Advertisements**

Explore these web pages to learn how to write good advertisements. Find out what the target audience is, how to create a right appeal, and what words to use for a successful advertisement. Includes quotes on advertising by David Ogilvy, lists of top advertisements and slogans, lesson plans, work sheets, and in class activities. Includes links to the eThemes resource on Advertisements and Persuasive Writing. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00001483.shtml>