



HCDE Instructional Technology News

Volume 32 October 2008
Digital Learning and Instructional Technology



Tools for the Classroom

Google Education Resources

Google provides many free resources for teachers such as posters, Google Teacher Academy, Google Shared Docs, Google SketchUp, G-mail (e-mail), and word processing software. Access Google resources at <http://www.google.com/edu/index.html>.



Free Software for Home

Open Office.org provides free software for Word Processing, Spreadsheets, Databases, and Presentations that is compatible and with Microsoft Office. Open Office is used by many universities and businesses. Download Open Office at <http://www.openoffice.org/>.



Audacity

Audacity is a free audio editor and recorder. Computers with a microphone can use Audacity to create audio podcasts and other audio recordings for the classroom. Download Audacity at <http://audacity.sourceforge.net/>.

Interactive Math Sites for the Classroom

Texas Virtual School Network Courses

Online Instructor's Training, Part I, II, and III is required of all TxVSN online instructors. (30 hours; \$480) Cohorts are beginning soon!



- October 6 to November 16
 - November 3 to December 14
- <http://www.via-tx.org>

HCDE Online Courses

- Brain Research—Using Technology to Support Delayed Learners (3 hours; \$50)
- Brain Research—Using Technology to Support ADD/ADHD Learners (3 hours; \$50)
- Marzano's Instructional Strategies and Technology—Similarities and Differences (3 hours; \$50)
- Marzano's Instructional Strategies and Technology—Summarizing and Note-taking (3 hours; \$50)
- Podcasting in the Classroom (3 hours; \$50)



Links for Teachers

Student Loan Forgiveness and Cancellation

Texas Education Agency provides loan forgiveness and cancellation to some teachers in specific subject areas, in schools with more than 30% in low-income families, and in Title I schools. Loans must be federal college loans, but teachers can transfer other loans to the necessary federal loans to qualify. For more information, go to: <http://www.tea.state.tx.us/edex/loanforgive.html/>.



Pell Grants and Supplemental Education Opportunity Grants

Qualifying teachers can receive Pell Federal Grants for graduate level courses through the SEOG. To apply, complete a FAFSA application at <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/>.

Edutopia Travel Grant Resources

Edutopia provides an extensive list of travel grant opportunities for teachers in classroom-related locations. Grants are through agencies such as Fund for Teachers, Earthwatch, and Fulbright-Hayes Seminars. The "Travel Checks" list is available at <http://www.edutopia.org/travel-grants>.

Grants and Contests for the Classroom

Vernier & NSTA Technology Award

Science teachers in grades K-16 can apply for awards of \$3,000 (\$1K teacher; \$1K of Vernier products; and \$1K to attend national NSTA Convention) Awards are for teachers using data-collection technology using a computer, graphing calculator, or handheld in the science classroom. Apply before November 30, 2008 at <http://www.vernier.com/grants/nsta.html>.



Verizon Foundation Grants

Verizon Foundation provides grants up to schools in areas such as:

- Education
- Literacy
- Healthcare and Accessibility
- Internet Safety

For a Foundation Literacy Grant information, go to <http://foundation.verizon.com/grant/guidelines.shtml>.



Best Buy Teach Awards

Earn awards of \$1,000 to \$5,000 for K-12 schools, or \$10,000 for schools serving 9th grade, for integrating interactive technology into the curriculum to engage students and make learning fun. Awards are in the form of Best Buy gift cards. Apply by October 12, 2008 at <https://bestbuyteach.scholarshipamerica.org/>.

