



APRIL 2005

UGA-ETTC and DOE Regional Meeting Provides Program Updates

The ETTC and the Georgia Department of Education held a meeting with technology coordinators and curriculum directors on April 14th for the purpose of sharing information about technology initiatives that affect systems in our region. Some of the topics covered are summarized below.



Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) Regional Support

The Department of Education will once again provide access to NCLB/AYP data through an online portal. Access is tentatively scheduled to become available to system personnel designated by the superintendent on May 16th. The ETTC will conduct redelivery training sessions for key district AYP support people in early May. We will also be available throughout May and June to consult with principals and others responsible for AYP data as they work to correct data errors.

Student Information System

GaDOE is preparing to implement a statewide data warehouse, decision sup-

port applications, and unique identifier system, collectively called the Georgia Statewide Student Information System (GSSIS) by the end of 2005. The GSSIS portal will support uploads from the student information systems currently used by school systems and will not require that schools purchase new ones. The ETTC will be available to assist districts with training and troubleshooting once the system goes online.

Wireless Networking

Two districts in our region were eligible to apply for the Georgia Title IID '05 Competitive Wireless 1:1 Grant. Anita Carson White Middle School in Greene County and Coile Middle School in Clarke County applied, and GaDOE announced on April 14th that both would receive the grant. The funds will be used to create a wireless network and provide laptops computers in one classroom in the school. Congratulations to both of these systems.

Georgia Performance Standards

GaDOE has trained hundreds of Georgia educators to teach other educators in their systems how to unpack standards and plan for instruction using the new Georgia Performance Standards. The DOE has also partnered with the ETTC to develop online GPS training modules. The module content is identical to that provided in face-to-face sessions, but will allow schools to provide training to new employees in a cost-effective manner and during non-school hours. The ETTC will provide training for online course facilitators from interested systems in May.

LoTI Surveys

The GaDOE is making the Level of Technology Implementation (LoTI) survey available at no charge to state school systems. This online instrument assesses educators' comfort and skill level with using a personal computer and the level to which they integrate technology in an exemplary manner that supports purposeful problem-solving, performance-based assessment practices, and experiential learning. GaDOE strongly encourages the use of the survey for the purposes of technology planning, grant proposal preparation, and program evaluation. The ETTC can provide systems with information that can help schools begin using this important source of data.



Georgia Virtual High School

Georgia e-Learning will begin offering summer school courses to students throughout the state this summer. Students may earn up to 1 Carnegie Unit for courses taken during the summer terms. Visit <http://www.gaelearning.org/faqs.asp> for more information about the summer courses. Information for schools interested in providing online courses for their students during the 2005-2006 school year is available at <http://www.gaelearning.org>.

2005 GaETC and Technology

Leadership Conference

These two conferences will be merged this year and will meet at the Georgia International Convention Center in College Park, Georgia on November 9-11. The conference will benefit teachers, media specialists, technology specialists, administrators, curriculum directors, staff development coordinators, and others interested in educational technology. Registration forms and further information are available at <http://www.gaetc.net>.

New ETTC Activities

PROMOTE Georgia

The newest entries in the PROMOTE Georgia Project are now available for viewing online at



<http://www.promotega.org>. Over 35 teams from schools in our region entered the competition. The PROMOTE Georgia Project provides students in grades 2-5, 6-8, and 9-12 the opportunity to work in teams to perform research and develop educational Web sites that teach others about a selected topic. PROMOTE Georgia focuses on teaching standards through Project-Based Learning. Supervised by a classroom teacher (coach), teams of students will select a content standard(s) that is applicable to their grade level and develop an educational Web site designed to teach others. We will be gearing up soon for the 2005-2006 school year. Please contact the UGA-ETTC if you are interested in participating in this exciting project.

The JASON Expedition

The UGA Technology Training Center was recently awarded a Teacher Quality Grant to help middle school science teachers implement the new GPS standards using technology enhanced hands-on activities. It has selected the JASON Expedition, a nationally acclaimed science curriculum, as the foundation for this professional development opportunity. Interested educators should contact their curriculum directors



for further information, or view the flyer at: http://ttc.coe.uga.edu/forms/regional_meeting/TQgrantflyer.pdf

Teacher Resources

Fact Monster

<http://www.factmonster.com/index.html>

Fact Monster indeed contains a “monster” amount of educational information in all school subject areas. From *World & News* and *Word Wise* to *Math & Money*, students and teachers will find the almanac sections, special features, and games and quizzes to be helpful resources. The Homework Center offers information categorized by subjects and skills as well as search tools for reference sources, years and days in history, and notable birthdays. Students will find the interactive periodic table, U.S. History timeline, and conversion calculator to be helpful online tools for their schoolwork. Other useful resources on the site include online atlases, dictionaries, encyclopedias, and almanacs as well as helpful citation information.

International Kids' Space

<http://www.kids-space.org/index.html>
The International Kids' Space website serves as a meeting place for children all over the world to collaborate in multiple creative efforts. The Global Story Train, The Beanstalk, and Storybook sections allow students worldwide to work together on illustrated stories. Hop Pop Town, Children's Traditional Costumes, Children's Letters to NYC Children, Voice for the Earth, Kid's Gallery, Kid's Space Connection, and On Air Concert are other forums that allow kids to communicate, create and share together in a safe environment.

Tech Tips **Flash Drives**

Even with readily available net access, being able to carry around data is a necessity. Flash drives (sometimes known as jump, thumb, or ram drives) are tremendously useful devices for that purpose.

They're the best substitute yet for floppy drives. There are several things that you can do to make them even better, though.

First, create two text files. To do this, open My Computer and double click on the flash drive icon to open it. Right click in the white space and select **New - Text Document**. Name one “readme.txt”, and the other “Property of your_name.txt” and put your contact information in those files. Just as flash drives are easy to carry, they're easy to leave behind- and having the contact information easily visible makes them easy to return.

Be sure to eject your flash drive properly, too. Usually, there's an icon in the lower right hand corner of the screen that represents USB drives. You should right click on it and choose **Safely Eject Hardware** to, well, safely eject it.



Most flash drives will work just fine on a Macintosh. Plug it in as normal, and to safely eject it, drag its icon onto the trashcan.

Copying files to a flash drive when you're using Windows XP is very simple. Simply right-click on the file(s) you want to copy, scroll down to **Send To** and then choose the flash drive.

Finally, flash drives work without doing anything special for Windows ME, Windows 2000, Windows XP, and Macintosh OS's 8.6 and up. Windows 98 requires special drivers, which will be available either from the manufacturer's web site, or a disk that came with the drive.