

ALTEC NEWSLETTER



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Title I Funds Can Be Used to Purchase Technology

Title I funds are set aside for improving academic achievement of the disadvantaged. What you might not know is that Title I funds can be used to purchase instructional materials, supplies, *and equipment*. Technology can be purchased using Title I funds, similar to Title II.D, but there are restrictions as to the use of the materials and equipment purchased. For example, each school building is identified as either schoolwide or targeted for the use of their Title I funds.

Schoolwide means that at least 40 percent of the students in the building qualify for Title I under at least two criteria such as standardized testing and economic deprivation. In order for a school to be identified as schoolwide, it must meet that criteria and write a schoolwide plan that must be approved. If the school is identified as schoolwide then the materials purchased with Title I funds may be used by all students in the building. Students who qualify for Title I do not need to be singled out.

Targeted schools have a much more restricted use of materials and equipment purchased with Title I funds. In targeted schools, less than 40 percent of the students qualify for Title I funds. Only those students who do qualify may benefit from any materials, supplies, or equipment purchased with Title I funds. So in this case, it might not be equitable to the other students to have equipment available to only a small number of students in the building.

These laws apply to all 50 states; however, in some states, such as Missouri, there are very specific restrictions when it comes to the use of public funds in private schools. While private schools can benefit from the use of Title funds in Missouri, the Missouri Constitution specifically states that public funds may not be used to purchase technology for private schools. This is the reason that Title II.D is a bypass project in Missouri, because Title II.D funds are allocated specifically for technology and the only way that private schools are able to benefit from these funds is if the funds are distributed by an institution other than the state of Missouri, in this case PITEC.

To read more about Title I, please visit

<http://www.ed.gov/policy/elsec/leg/esea02/index.html>

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

SHOWCASE

Are you interested in professional development but aren't sure where to get started? Perhaps you're not completely comfortable using a computer or projector or whiteboard yet and think you might be lost taking a course.

It turns out that you are not alone. At least half of the educators that attend our courses are just getting started with technology and our professional development providers are trained to work with all levels of technology proficiency.



This month we would like to focus on the most popular onsite courses that our educators take to begin learning to use technology in their classrooms. Our talented staff of trainers has more than 15 years of experience working with teachers to integrate technology into the classroom and are well aware of the challenges that teachers face when they are given new technologies and expected to implement them in effective ways.

Use our courses as stepping stones to becoming comfortable with new and existing technologies, and you will also leave with valuable resources and skills to implement immediately when you return to your classroom.

The three most popular onsite courses that educators choose to take from our list of services are Technology Integration Techniques: Office and Web, LCD and Whiteboard Training, and Customized Staff Inservice Days.

Technology Integration Techniques: Office and Web is a two-day onsite session in a computer lab with four weeks of online follow-up. The first two days focus on integrating Web-based resources and digital media into instruction. There are so many resources available on the Web that it is difficult to decipher which ones are high quality, reliable resources you can use in your classroom and which are not. As part of this course you will receive step-by-step instructions on using valuable, free, and teacher-tested online resources that are currently accessed by millions of teachers each month.

During this course you will:

- Study Project Based Learning techniques

- Learn to create classroom presentations using PowerPoint and receive ideas for using PowerPoint in the classroom.
- Learn to evaluate Web sites and find great sites for kids, as well as power searching with valuable search engines on the Web.
- Overview of the valuable free online tools available at <http://4teachers.org>
- Create an online lesson plan using TrackStar and an online worksheet using Web Worksheet Wizard, both free online resources.
- Create an online, printable rubric using RubiStar, a PBL Checklist using PBL Checklists, and a note using Casa Notes which allows you to create take-home notes and awards for your students in English and Spanish.

After the initial two days of hands-on training, the four weeks of online follow-up allow attendees to fine tune the skills they've learned, have access to their professional development provider for questions that come up, and even expand to learn new topics if they choose to. For instance, in the past, once attendees have mastered the online tools, they might be interested in using their four weeks of online follow-up to learn to use a specific software program such as Inspiration, Kidspiration, or Kidpix. All of our trainings can be customized to meet your specific needs.

LCD and Whiteboard Training is a one-day training designed to give teachers a running start when they've purchased a SMARTboard and an LCD projector. In the morning the focus is on LCD Projectors.

Participants will learn

- How to set up the projector for use in a variety of different spaces.
- How to connect an LCD projector to a desktop or a laptop computer.
- How to connect other video devices such as video recorders, video cameras, document cameras, and more.
- How to maintain the projector and ensure its long life.
- How to use the menus and various settings.
- How to use the projector to facilitate classroom participation.

The afternoon session focuses on whiteboard training.

Participants will learn

- How to connect and maintain the whiteboard.
- How to orient the whiteboard for use with a digital projector.
- How to interact with the computer using the whiteboard.
- How to use the whiteboard with a variety of computer software:
 - PowerPoint presentations
 - other Office products
 - painting/drawing programs
 - graphic organizers
- How to use the various whiteboard software tools:
 - notebook
 - gallery
 - screen capture/recorder
- How to use the electronic whiteboard to facilitate classroom participation.

SMARTboards are very popular with schools because they allow teachers the flexibility to use a

computer enhance their lessons without having to sit at the computer and navigate a program or a Web site. In the past couple of years SMART has made it even easier for schools to use and purchase SMARTboards. Last year they made all of the SMARTboards larger without raising pricing. They also eliminated the SMARTERkids grant program, a program that schools would apply for to receive large discounts on SMART equipment. Now schools can automatically receive the discounted pricing without submitting a grant application and waiting for approval.

Custom Staff Inservice Days is the third most popular onsite training schools are choosing. Because our staff has 15 years of experience, there is a wide range of technology hardware and software that isn't listed on our regular list of courses but is still an option for schools that have very specific needs.

For example, one school purchased tablet computers for all their teachers and a variety of software including: Inspiration, Kidspiration, Geometer's Sketchpad, Windows Journal, One Note, and Microsoft Publisher. They set up a two-day custom training during the summer and chose a schedule that gave teachers several levels of proficiency for each software program to choose from. It was a great success!

These are just a few of the popular courses available for you. For a complete list of courses please visit the ALTEC Professional Development Web site at <http://pd.altec.org> we have options for every school budget. You can also call us at 785 864 0699.

SEND YOUR LEGISLATORS AN UPDATE

Now that the school year is in full swing, most schools have begun spending their Title II.D funds to purchase valuable technology and professional development. The future of Title II.D, Enhancing Education Through Technology, is uncertain. If this funding is important to you and you would like to see it continue, it is crucial that you keep your legislators apprised of your progress on a regular basis.

Writing a letter to your senators and representatives is an important first step in facilitating change. Many people do not take the time to do this so when you do, your opinion has that much more influence because your representatives are interested in what is important to you. In Missouri, there are three key contacts for you to send correspondence to:

Senator Christopher S. Bond

274 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Phone: 202 224 5721

Online Contact: <http://bond.senate.gov>

Senator Claire McCaskill

493 Russell Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

Phone: 202 224 6154

Online Contact: <http://mccaskill.senate.gov>

The third person to contact is the member of the House of Representatives in the district in which you reside. You can determine your specific representative by going to the Write Your Representative Web site at: <http://www.house.gov/writerep/> and typing in your state and zip code.

You can contact a member of Congress by letter, fax, e-mail, or phone. Fax is recommended over letters when contacting federal legislators to avoid delays caused by security. You can also e-mail your letter through the Web sites provided above.

