

ALTEC NEWSLETTER



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How will the Stimulus Package Affect Your School?

The Enhancing Education through Technology (Title II.D) program will get a \$650 million dollar boost to be distributed over the next two years. The funds will be distributed in addition to the program's regular budget which, was \$267 million in 2008. Through the Title II.D program, K-12 schools will receive funds to purchase professional development, hardware, and software to enhance the learning experience at their schools.

This is also great news for private schools that choose to participate in federal funding. Each year, private school administrators receive a letter from their state department of education asking them if they wish to participate in federal programs. If the administrator chooses to participate, that school, too, can receive Title II.D funds based on the per-pupil allocation the public school receives. Title II.D funding has made it possible for many schools to update their technology and purchase much needed professional development for their teachers. In the past schools have used the funds to purchase digital cameras, smartboards, laptop and desktop computers, administration software, educational software, subscriptions to popular online teaching programs such as Quiz-Star and BrainPOP, and even to pay for wiring their schools for Internet service.

While the program differs from state to state, Title II.D funds are distributed based on the percentage of low-income students in each district and then part of the funds are set aside and distributed through competitive grants. Districts that receive competitive grant funding submit proposals in the spring of each year according to the guidelines set forth by their state department of education. For more information about how to access the Title II.D funds for your school visit <http://www.ed.gov/about/contacts/state/> for phone number and Web site information for your state department of education.


DONATE TODAY

... help keep 4Teachers.org teacher tools on the Web

Each year millions of educators access the valuable *free* resources available through 4Teachers.org. Because these tools were created through grant-funded projects whose funding has expired, it is our goal to keep these tools free and available to all teachers. Donate today to support the development and maintenance of the 4Teachers.org resources.

If you don't have a favorite tool already, here is a sneak peak at some of the timesaving resources that are currently available at 4Teachers.org:

RubiStar allows teachers to create rubrics in minutes using customizable templates over a wide variety of topics. It is available in English and Spanish and has a searchable database of more than 100,000 rubrics already created. Rubrics are printable and can even be stored online for later use.

 **TRACKSTAR** is an online lesson creator. Thousands of new lessons are created each month by teachers all over the world. The user-friendly format allows even the most inexperienced user to create an online lesson in a snap. Simply gather a list of Web sites that you would like your students to visit, write your


annotations for each site, and TrackStar puts the lesson together for you.

ARCADEMIC SKILL BUILDERS are



research-based, standards-aligned games that offer an innovative approach for stu-

dents in Grades 3 to 8 to learn basic language arts and math skills. The arcade environment is a highly engaging environment that motivates students to learn and improve their skills.

Casa  Notes allows teachers to quickly make, customize, and print typical notes and awards that are sent home to parents or given to students. Notes can be printed in English and Spanish, complete with graphics and customizable fields. Teachers can easily create and print field trip permission forms, student progress reports, homework, student contracts, thank-you notes, student citizen awards, parent-teacher conference schedules, outstanding performance awards and more!

✓ **Assign-a-Day** was created to improve teacher/student communication through the use of an online teacher-managed calendar. Teach-

ers post class assignments and activities, and students who miss a class can access their assignments from any computer with Internet access.



Web Poster Wizard allows teachers and students to create a lesson, worksheet, or class page and immediately publish it online. Students can create online projects and reports complete with images and links. This is a fantastic tool that allows teachers and students to publish pages on the Web quickly and easily.



NoteStar is a tool designed to manage online research

for papers and projects. Students can use NoteStar during Internet research to organize notes and sources to create printable notes and a bibliography. Teachers can use NoteStar to assign and manage projects, check sources for authenticity, send messages to students, help students organize their notes, and track each group's progress.

To learn more how to keep these resources free and available to all teachers, visit <http://4Teachers.org> and click the Donate button at the top of the page.



Join 4Teachers Through NECC NING

NECC Ning is an online community network designed to help National Educational Computing Conference (NECC) attendees stay connected. Participants use the network to talk about upcoming sessions, share NECC experiences, and keep informed of important events.

Each year the ALTEC professional development team actively participates at NECC by providing professional de-

velopment workshops and sessions. We have created a new 4Teachers group at NECC Ning and would like to invite you to join! Use this tool as a forum to discuss 4Teachers tools, communicate directly with our staff, and get to know other educators who share the same interest in integrating technology into the classroom. Visit

Visit <http://www.necc2008.org/>



Conference Calendar

Meet ALTEC Staff at these Upcoming Conferences!

KSDE Annual Conference

Kansas State Department of Education

Date: April 30 & May 1, 2009

Location: Hyatt Regency and Century II Convention Complex, Wichita, KS

Web site:

<http://conferences.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=2762>

TechNet

Date: March 12, 2009

Location: Raymore-Peculiar High School, Peculiar, MO

Web site:

<http://education.umkc.edu/kcrpdc/technetconf09.pdf>

MACE

Mid-America Association for Computers in Education

Date: March 5-6, 2009

Location: Kansas State University Alumni Center, Manhattan, KS

Web site:

<http://www.mace-ks.org/maceconference.htm>

RCET-SW

Southwest Education and Technology Conference 2009

Date: March 3-4, 2009

Location: Missouri State University, Springfield, MO

Web site:

<http://associations.missouristate.edu/RCET/conference.htm>

NECC 2009

National Educational Computing Conference

Date: June 28-July 1, 2009

Location: Walter E. Washington Convention Center, Washington, D.C.

Web site:

<http://center.uoregon.edu/ISTE/NECC2009/>

ALTEC PROVIDES SERVICES TO SUPPORT YOUR EXISTING PROJECTS

If you have an existing or proposed project, ALTEC can develop and host your Web site, support your online community with discussion boards, set up your video conference, or custom-design a software application to meet your needs. Propose stronger projects and programs using ALTEC's over 15 years of expertise in educational technology, special needs, professional development, and evaluation. Please call us at 785 864 0699 to set up a free consultation. We're happy to assist you with all your technology needs.

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