

Pearson Unveils Groundbreaking K12 Learning Platform

Pearson Tapestry delivers interoperability with curriculum and student information management

ORLANDO, January 21, 2009—Technology has provided new solutions that have fundamentally changed the face of education, providing many educators and administrators with improved ease of use and access to information. While these advances have improved teaching and learning, disparate technology systems can be frustrating for teachers and students.

All of that's about to change, thanks to Pearson Tapestry™—the first-of-its-kind platform that combines multiple education solutions, including student portal, information systems and course management, into one unified environment. Pearson, the global leader in educational publishing, assessment, information and services, unveiled Pearson Tapestry to more than 3,000 educators and IT professionals attending the 2009 Florida Educational Technology Conference (FETC), one of the nation's largest education technology gatherings.

“Pearson Tapestry represents the most dynamic method of measuring student education and teacher interaction,” says Alex Acsevil, Assistant Director of Technology at Independence School District in Missouri, one of the key design partners for the new product. “In our district, it's the catalyst that engages students and makes them ready with 21st Century learning skills.”

Debuting in Fall 2009, Pearson Tapestry is an easy-to-use, personalized interface that offers multiple, up-to-the-minute benefits via one gateway, including:

- Teachers, students and parents can now easily collaborate to track student progress, access course materials and focus on student achievement.
- Administrators are now able to quickly identify and measure student performance across classrooms, across the district, and even across the state, and take action to improve outcomes and report progress.
- The single platform means that educators now have only one point of contact, instead of having to deal with multiple providers for their needs.
- Teachers are able to immediately access student assessment results against standards and make adjustments to personalize their curriculum to student needs.
- Students are able to track their own progress and have one-click access to their course materials.
- Parents are able to follow their children's progress throughout the school year, not just at the end of a grading period.

“Pearson Tapestry delivers on technology's long-held promise to improve student achievement,” says Jim Behnke, Chief Learning Officer of Pearson. “This groundbreaking solution provides a window to the kind of informed instruction that will transform learning in and out of the classroom.”

Ideally suited for both on-ground and online courses, Pearson Tapestry integrates seamlessly with student information systems, including PowerSchool® and Chancery SMS, Pearson's best-selling Web-based student information systems, via the Schools Interoperability Framework (SIF) specification.

“One of the biggest challenges of online education is creating a sense of community and personal connection as part of the academic experience—a place where students, teachers and parents connect,” said Scot Yonan, Manager of Academic Technologies at Kaplan Virtual Education. “Kaplan Virtual Education is excited about Pearson Tapestry because it has the potential to bridge the academic, social and administrative experiences of high school.”

Pearson Tapestry was developed in partnership with more than 500 educators representing diverse and innovative schools and education providers. Key partners advising on the product design include the Plainedge School District in Massapequa, N.Y., Independence School District in Independence, Mo., Kaplan Virtual Education, Catholic Diocese of Wichita, Kans., Logansport Community Schools in Indiana, and Shelby County Schools in Tennessee. These exceptional leaders in the use of education technology participated in pilot tests of the platform, provided feedback and guided its design so that it best meets the needs of 21st century schools and districts.

“Schools have been demanding a system that brings together achievement, academic and assessment data to empower teachers,” says Dr. Gloria Stephenson, Executive Director of Technology at Independence School District. “This solution adds critical, interactive data from school and classroom management systems to address the achievement gaps felt by every student and teacher.”

About Pearson

Pearson, the global leader in education and education technology, reaches and engages today’s digital natives with effective and personalized learning, as well as dedicated professional development for their teachers. This commitment is demonstrated in the company’s investment in innovative print and digital education materials for preK through college, student information systems and learning management systems, teacher professional development, career certification programs and testing and assessment products that set the standard for the industry. The company’s respected brands include eCollege, Scott Foresman, Prentice Hall, Addison Wesley, Benjamin Cummings, Stanford 10, SuccessNet, MyLabs, PowerSchool, Chancery SMS, SuccessMaker and many others. Pearson’s comprehensive offerings help inform targeted instruction and intervention so that success is within reach of every student at every level of education. Pearson’s commitment to education for all is supported by the global philanthropic initiatives of the Pearson Foundation. Pearson’s other primary businesses include the Financial Times Group and the Penguin Group.

Susan Aspey

Susan.aspey@pearson.com or 347-421-2473.

###