



NEWS RELEASE

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Digital Content from Discovery Education Replace Textbooks in Indiana Public Schools' Pilot Program

Twelve district schools combine digital content, curriculum alignment services, professional development, and hardware in effort to improve student engagement in social studies lessons

ORLANDO (Jan. 14, 2010) – Educators and students in [Indianapolis Public Schools](#) (IPS) are now accessing high-quality streaming video, images and other digital media aligned to district pacing guides thanks to a commitment by administrators to improve student engagement in social studies lessons. This innovative pilot program in 12 district schools, in which dynamic digital content replaces traditional textbooks as the core instructional material, features digital media, curriculum alignment services, professional development, and hardware from [Discovery Education](#).

The only digital video-based learning service scientifically shown to increase academic achievement, Discovery Education *streaming* enhances curriculum with more than 5,000 videos and 41,000 high-quality digital video clips, all aligned to state standards. Searchable by keyword, content area and grade level, the rich video content and other digital assets from Discovery Education can be easily integrated into curricula to engage today's students in learning.

In addition to providing dynamic and engaging content, Discovery Education's Curriculum Alignment team analyzed district pacing guides, determined the best digital assets, including video chapters, images, articles, audio, writing prompts, games, and interactives for each standard, and embedded those assets directly into the pacing guides. By aligning digital assets from Discovery Education to IPS pacing guides at a granular level, IPS educators are empowered to engage students in social studies lessons with a variety of learning styles and interests through both primary and secondary sources, and archival footage.

“Across the country, school systems are learning that textbooks are not the way to go, but that technology is the way to go,” said Gene White, superintendent of IPS. “To date, we are very pleased with this pilot. The powerful resources from Discovery Education have brought alive

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our social studies curriculum in a new way, and we look forward to tracking the results of this effort.”

The pilot program also includes access to Discovery Education MediaShare, a Web-based content sharing system that empowers teacher collaboration through uploading, sharing, managing, and distributing user-created or licensed content, as well as Discovery Media Servers. Powered by Dell™ PowerEdge™ servers, Discovery Media Servers allow teachers to access content from Discovery Education locally, preserving external Internet bandwidth.

“Staff development is an essential part of moving teachers to the next level of instructional delivery,” said Willie Giles, IPS deputy superintendent. “It is critical that our educators know how best to utilize technology in the classroom, and we know the quality professional development provided by Discovery Education staff, combined with the new digital content and educational technologies, will take instruction and academic achievement to the next level.”

Discovery Education is providing a comprehensive array of professional development services to participating district educators. This professional development ensures educators have ample opportunity to learn how to utilize new technologies and integrate them into district curricula. Discovery Education also continues to build capacity and to support educators with one of the nation’s largest professional learning communities, the Discovery Educator Network (DEN). Through the DEN, educators have access to a wide range of technology training as well as a resource library of teacher-generated projects and tools.

“The pacing guides that accompany the pilot program are designed to support educators as they plan, teach and improve academic achievement,” said Jocelyn Chadwick, director of curriculum development, Discovery Education. “By integrating engaging content from Discovery Education into the curriculum and offering educators effective professional development, IPS has provided a terrific example of what an effective implementation of digital instructional media looks like.”

Discovery Education and Comcast’s Indianapolis Region also are supplementing the digital content used by educators in schools and extending classroom learning through Discovery Education On Demand By Comcast. Visit <http://comcast.discoveryeducation.com/> for details.

For more information on Discovery Education *streaming*, Discovery Education’s professional development services, or any other products and services from Discovery Education, please visit www.discoveryeducation.com or call 800-323-9084.

About Discovery Education

Discovery Communications (NASDAQ: DISCA, DISCB, DISCK) revolutionized television with Discovery Channel and is now transforming classrooms through Discovery Education. Powered by the number one nonfiction media company in the world, Discovery Education combines scientifically proven, standards-based digital media and a dynamic user community in order to empower teachers to improve student achievement. Already, more than half of all U.S. schools access Discovery Education digital services. Explore the future of education at www.discoveryeducation.com.

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