

## NEWS RELEASE



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### **ePals Launches *ePals LearningSpace*™ to Give Districts Greater Control of Social Media**

*Virtual Workspace allows educators to create and manage collaborative groups across classrooms, schools, districts, and around the globe*

**Herndon, Va.** (Oct. 14, 2009) – ePals, Inc., launches *ePals LearningSpace*, a controlled, yet flexible, online workspace that provides administrators greater management of social media use throughout the school system. Through the platform, educators can conduct project-based learning opportunities, differentiate instruction and design curriculum in real-time.

*ePals LearningSpace* brings together a complete suite of Web 2.0 tools – blogs, wikis, digital lockers, forums and more – to help educators effectively prepare students for the 21st century workforce. At the same time, administrators are provided with critical visibility and control over how these tools are used throughout the district.

Optimized to mirror the real-world organization of school systems, collaborative groups can be created to support activities across classrooms, schools and districts. For example, using the platform a middle school science class can create a group to conduct a water conservation project, and a high school English department can create a group to write and share curriculum. And, *ePals LearningSpace* weaves in two award-winning products from ePals – ClassroomMatch™ and SchoolMail™ – for connecting with the ePals Global Community™.

“One of the key components of a project-based learning environment is to include activities that are collaborative by nature,” said Ken Graham, Asst. Superintendent, Administration and Technology, from Hauppauge Union Free School District in New York. “*ePals LearningSpace* offers our educators a collaborative learning environment in which students can participate in a wide variety of projects across the curriculum while using Web 2.0 technology – all within a school-safe ‘gated learning community’ insulated from the chaos and hazards of the public Internet.”

“*ePals LearningSpace* is the first platform to help administrators eliminate ‘Web sprawl’ and manage the use of social media, while giving educators the tools they need to effectively engage students,” said Laurence Roth, EVP of Marketing and Business Development for ePals, Inc. “And by being integrated into the ePals Global Community, the world’s largest group of learners and

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teachers eager to connect and collaborate online, students gain increased global understanding through exposure to other cultures and viewpoints.”

Building on more than 12 years of experience in the K-12 market, ePals provides safe and secure Web-based communication and collaboration tools to districts and schools around the world. The architecture of *ePals LearningSpace* enables the use of best-of-breed security technologies, including monitoring, language filtering and role-based permissions tools. Continuing to demonstrate the company’s commitment to safety, *ePals LearningSpace* is COPPA compliant.

*ePals LearningSpace* users can create, manage and organize a digital learning history, edit documents quickly and easily, and store a wide range of media. Administrators and educators can track and view all activity for a given project, group or individual student, regardless of the publishing tool used.

Students, educators and administrators also can safely connect and collaborate with peers around the world through the ePals Global Community, with millions of educators and students in more than 200 countries and territories.

Eligible for purchase through e-Rate funding, *ePals LearningSpace* is built on the ePals Distributed Learning Platform™, which allows users to easily re-use core functions, integrate legacy systems and incorporate appropriate 3rd-party applications. This platform is the underlying technology for the recently announced International Baccalaureate virtual community.

For more information about *ePals LearningSpace*, visit <http://learningspace.epals.com/>.

#### **About ePals, Inc.**

ePals, Inc., offers students and educators around the world a safe environment for building and exchanging knowledge through protected connectivity tools, evidence-based curricula and authentic, collaborative learning experiences. The ePals Global Learning Community™ ([www.epals.com](http://www.epals.com)) is the largest online community of K-12 learners, enabling more than half a million educators and millions of students across 200 countries and territories to safely connect, exchange ideas and work together. The global community and a host of partner products are built on the ePals Distributed Learning Platform™, an online collaborative environment optimized for the education market. The company’s mission is to support lifelong learning through collaborative experiences that empower and inspire. ePals is especially committed to enabling academically rigorous educational opportunities in economically disadvantaged environments through the ePals Foundation – provider of In2Books, the company’s flagship literacy e-mentoring program. For more information, visit [www.epals.com](http://www.epals.com).

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