

Kan-ed Services Enhance Students' Learning Experiences

Kan-ed Annual
Evaluation
Report
June 2011



Since 2002, Eureka USD 389, in southeast Kansas, has been using Kan-ed services to enhance and customize students' learning experiences as well as to aid teachers in evaluating and helping students meet state standards. To these ends, USD 389 utilizes the Kan-ed Empowered Desktop, the Kan-ed sponsored Educational and Research Databases, and Homework Kansas/Live Tutor.

Pam Collinge, a sixth grade teacher at Marshall Elementary, uses Kan-ed sponsored services, primarily Empowered Desktop, in her classes daily. Collinge stated, "The support the Empowered Desktop has provided the students and teachers in our building has allowed us to look forward to the proposed education reforms with confidence and excitement. We can see where our students are functioning and the steps we need to take to make improvements...I feel comfortable with moving toward teaching 21st century skills as long as I have the Empowered Desktop to rely on."

Eureka USD 389

**Serves: 650+ students,
100+ educators**

**Member since:
September 16, 2002**

The Empowered Desktop has applications like Test Builder, Backpack, netTrekker d.i., and ePals. She uses the Test Builder application to create daily assignments "in which students construct responses to material that they have viewed or read online" and "to design formative tests so that I can see how students are progressing toward meeting the state standards." The Backpack allows her students to upload and save projects they are working on "and to keep an electronic portfolio of their work throughout the year." To assist her with supporting students at all ability levels, Collinge uses the netTrekker d.i. application; she said, "I can provide enrichment for the students that need it and remedial options for other students. The netTrekker d.i. has a read aloud feature that helps students pronounce words they are not familiar with." She uses the ePals email section when she wants her "students to take charge of their own learning. The projects are interesting, relate to problems that are prevalent in the world today, and allow students to communicate their thoughts safely through student forums."

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The Empowered Desktop offers links to other Kan-ed services such as the Educational and Research Databases and Homework Kansas/Live Tutor. Collinge also uses these services in her classes; she stated, "The World Book encyclopedia is a wonderful resource that students can access for a plethora of reasons. My students find it especially helpful when doing background research for their science fair projects." She further noted, "My students can access Homework Kansas through the Desktop if they need help when they are working on homework."

Collinge explained the impact of the Empowered Desktop, "The Empowered Desktop has completely changed the way I deliver lessons and assess student work...I rely on the Empowered Desktop resources more than textbooks. I think it is a revolutionary idea that has been made available to all Kansas students regardless of socioeconomic status. The Empowered Desktop is an absolute lifeline to students whose districts could not afford to purchase all of the features any other way."

Kan-ed

785-296-0843

kan-ed@ksbor.org

<http://www.kan-ed.org>