

TOP TEN REASONS TO USE THE STATE-FUNDED K-12 DATABASES IN YOUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY

The K-12 Databases Help Increase Student Achievement and Promote 21st Century Skills

Students today are exposed to more information than their grandparents were in a lifetime. The current and easy access to digital information has made most traditional textbooks nearly obsolete. Preparing students for their futures has taken on a different meaning and requires a deeper set of thinking skills - 21st Century skills. Student achievement can be impacted by effectively facilitated, technology-rich learning experiences. Constructive and targeted integration of quality digital resources like the K-12 Databases enables students to acquire, practice and apply higher order thinking skills resulting in better performance on standardized tests and better preparation for life after graduation.

The K-12 Databases Help Differentiate Instruction

The K-12 Databases resources include age-appropriate interfaces for elementary, middle and high school students, the ability to search for content by reading level, material in languages other than English, Spanish translator tools and read-aloud features. Educators can easily identify content most suitable for students with special needs as well as gifted and talented learners.

The K-12 Databases Address Core Content Standards

Effective researching requires more sophisticated skills than random hit or miss searching on the open internet. Specific research skills are not only detailed in the new Language Arts/Reading standards; but, are also important components in other core content standards. These rich online resources provide a relevant platform where students can test and hone these skills.

The K-12 Databases Are Critical to College and Career Readiness

The K-12 Databases Program includes thousands of authoritative, reliable sources of information on occupations in high demand as well as information on how to best prepare for these positions. These resources provide opportunities for students to build proficiency at discovering and evaluating the information they need in order to succeed not only in school but in post-secondary education and the workforce.

The K-12 Databases Program Provides Equitable Access to Quality Resources

Regardless of district size or funding, all Texas public school students, educators, leaders and students' families have equal access to the state-funded resources. Approximately 55 cents per student from your district technology allotment is used to fund the K-12 Databases Program. If districts were to purchase these resources individually, the cost would be much higher and access to resources would be inequitable on a state-wide basis.

The K-12 Databases Support Parental Involvement

Since the K-12 Databases are available to students and their immediate families, parents have access to resources to help their children with homework and for their own personal interests. Parents and guardians may access the resources using the same username and password that students use at school.

The K-12 Databases Allow Educators to Keep Current and Grow Professionally

Components of the K-12 Databases Program include thousands of articles from more than 500 professional journals. These are updated on a regular basis and provide just-in-time access to freshly published, relevant information that helps educators stay abreast of high interest topics and assists those pursuing masters and doctoral degrees.

The K-12 Databases Promote Technology Literacy for Students, Teachers and Administrators

The K-12 Databases provide opportunities for students, teachers and administrators to address the Technology Applications TEKS, the SBEC Teacher Technology Competencies and the National Educational Technology Standards for School Administrators as well as meet the NCLB Title II Part D requirement.

The K-12 Databases Assist Educators in Reaching the Advanced and Target levels measured by the Texas STAAR Chart

Teachers and librarians can reach the advanced to target levels in the Teaching & Learning, Educator Preparation, and Leadership focus areas of the STAAR Chart by effectively integrating the K-12 Databases at their campus or district.

The K-12 Databases Help Promote Health at Your School

With an escalating concern regarding obesity and type II diabetes in children, eating disorders, autism, teen pregnancy, substance abuse, ADHD and the need for updated materials to support the Health curriculum, the K-12 Databases Program provides a resource specifically about health issues.

“ The information available through the K-12 Databases is current, relevant, comprehensive and easy to use - I recommend them every chance I get! ”