

Kent School District Digital Content and Curriculum Awards 2013

1. Entry Title

NextGen Learning Resources

2. Website address of the program

www.kent.k12.wa.us

Please note that multiple links are embedded into the content of each response. The full application with embedded links is located at

3. Date launched / in effect

NextGen Learning Resources, launched in 2005 with a proof-of-concept Technology Academy and continuing through the present to support Pre-K through 12 learning with digital resources.

4. Program Summary

With a district wide 3:1 student to computer ratio, and a [1:1 program](#) on track for placing laptops into the hands of all secondary students over the next two years, providing access to [digital resources](#) for teachers and students is key for maximizing efficient use of technology for learning. Blending teacher-made content delivered on an open source Moodle platform with purchased instructional materials, online resource subscriptions, and open educational resources, the district's technology investment is leveraged to provide engaging learning opportunities. Instructional Services staff, working in concert with classroom teachers, continually explore resources that utilize available instructional technologies to enhance student learning. The nature of digital assets allows for facilitated sharing among teachers and extended learning opportunities for students. Standardization of the classroom environment with interactive whiteboards, document cameras, digital projectors, sound amplification, wireless internet connections, and access to laptops and other electronic devices, enhances the ability to support the software, maintain the hardware, disseminate instructional materials, and provide professional development with greater efficiency and at a lower cost. Digital access to implementation metrics and student performance data aids in creating dashboards to visualize results, analyze progress toward goals, and guide in-the-moment decision making. Ultimately, by following a [strategic roadmap](#) that ensures systemic development and implementation of digital learning resources, the district is creating an instructional platform that empowers teachers in meeting the needs of diverse learners and engages students with powerful learning opportunities.

5. Strategy for adoption of digital content

The district's quest for [interactive and integrated digital learning materials](#) to maximize the use of the technology available to all staff and students pre-dates the easy availability of those resources. That need drove a commitment to an open Learning Management System (LMS) as a stage for teachers to construct instructional content and classroom workflow processes. As providers of supplemental resources in digital format became increasingly available and publishers of comprehensive core curriculum materials began developing digital content, the district started weaving products together to craft an integrated digital curriculum.

By identifying a curriculum framework based on [learning standards](#), the district has opened avenues for assembling a range of instructional materials. District resource adoption committees now demand that publishers present engaging, interactive, integrated resources as a requirement for consideration. Those resources may be accessed by students as a [Frequently Used Link](#) or embedded into an [eLearning](#) course of instruction. Collaboration among teachers from schools across the district result in the creation of digital learning objects that are easily shared among teachers to support best practice instruction and reduce duplication of efforts.

The following examples illustrate the variety of resources that combine to form a comprehensive core curriculum repository.

Teacher-made or assembled materials: [Student Laptop Orientation deployed through the district's eLearning platform](#); [Washington State History graduation requirement](#); and a multitude of individual courses from every curricular area

Online supplemental resources: [interactive exploration simulations](#); [video clips for building background knowledge](#); [targeted technology skill development tutorials](#)

Internet-based integrated core curriculum resources: [for multiple core content adoptions](#); [for supplemental math concept development](#); [for language and literacy learning](#); [for math intervention](#); [for Credit Recovery](#)

6. Alignment with district vision/goals

The Kent School District mission statement, "Successfully prepare all students for their future," predicates the infusion of digital technologies into all district activities. For students to be prepared to live and work in a digital, connected future, their work of learning must happen in a similar environment. Intentionally selecting and deploying digital resources puts the district on the road to realizing the [strategic goals](#) of:

High Student Achievement by providing engaging learning experiences enabled through digital resources.

Effective and Valuable Communication by providing the infrastructure for internal and external exchanges.

Maximized Resources by ensuring effective use of the district's technology investments.

Highly Effective Staff by ensuring teachers have 21st century resources at their disposal.

Further, by ensuring that all instructional resources and classroom practice aligns with the [Common Core State Standards](#), students will be prepared to excel on high stakes academic testing.

7. Guided inventory of vetted content for teachers

In addition to the platforms for providing student access to digital learning materials, the district has established a comprehensive [Curriculum Center](#) for teachers. This digital repository consolidates adopted curriculum resources, teaching strategies, and performance assessments that are deliberately aligned with standards into a single source for teacher planning and instructional support. With content being developed to support all content areas at all grade level, Curriculum Center has become the teacher go-to location for lesson preparation and delivery. Many teacher-made resources using SMART Notebook for aggregating all lesson components provide a common structure for lesson design and embed effective student engagement strategies inherent in how the lesson files have been constructed. By way of example, teacher-made [SMART Notebook files](#) consolidate OER resources from Common Sense Media for teaching [Digital Citizenship](#) into the district standard template for teacher lesson preparation and delivery.

8. Professional development regarding how to integrate technology

Technology integration professional development occurs implicitly [embedded within content training](#) for teachers, adding to concept development, content deepening, and strategy refinement learning, both underlying technology skill development and integration strategy attainment. In addition, explicit professional development for integrating technology tools to support student learning is offered at individual schools, drawing from a cadre of district facilitators and taught to a cohort of teachers at their own school. A prime example is found in the [One-to-One Frameworks: Professional Development Series](#) with single topic modules, workshops, and full courses offered on site. Each training activity is supported with a complete set of resources for the facilitator including a [Facilitators Guide](#), readings, [original video for building background knowledge](#), handouts, and other instructional materials as appropriate. In addition, by utilizing the district's Exchange communication services, online face-to-face Tech Talk sessions employ desktop sharing capability for teachers to extend their learning by attending sessions using their laptops in their classrooms.

9. Network capacity and initiatives

By [strategically planning](#) for the required infrastructure, support, and management needs, the district has created a scalable and sustainable enterprise environment for delivering digital resources to the district's 27,000 students. [Broadband wireless](#) capability is fully implemented in all district facilities, and each site is joined to the district metropolitan network through a 10 GB backbone. All servers are located in a central data center to ensure a three-nines uptime. The district infrastructure provides connectivity in multiple directions, supporting Virtual Private Network connections from home for students to access all in-district resources included their personal digital storage space, as well as allowing students to access the in-district network via personal devices. This robust infrastructure creates an open environment for selecting whatever device provides the best platform for students to access learning resources. Multiple strategies are deployed for maintaining student safety and network security ranging from WebSense filtering of internet traffic to employing AppLocker for proxy avoidance. A growing collection of district developed video content is available through [KSD Tube](#) or from the district's growing [YouTube channel](#).

10. Additional comments

The Kent School District is committed to the mission of "Preparing all students for their future", and supporting student learning in a digital environment is key to realizing that mission. Students inhabit a digital landscape with electronic tools as ubiquitous as the air they breathe. Creating seamless connections between the real world of students' daily lives and the universe of schooling is critical for insuring engaged learners who rise to the challenges of self-directed learning. The aggressive pursuit of quality digital resources is essential for closing opportunity and learning gaps for our students.