



California K-12 High Speed Network Program Update

March 2008

K12HSN Launches EdZone, a Free Suite of Tools for the 21st Century Classroom



In recent years, educators have gained a wide range of technological tools to assist in teaching and learning. One such tool, the Internet, has developed into a critical source of knowledge and information. It has also become a place to contribute and collaborate with the world. Tools such as blogs, wikis, podcasting and video hosting have emerged, making it easy for anyone to publish their personal thoughts, messages, and information to a global community. These tools are often known as Web 2.0 tools, and are redefining today's classroom.

The California K-12 High Speed Network (K12HSN) has developed a comprehensive set of tools to support teaching and learning in California classrooms. This suite of tools, known as *edZone*, is available to the California educational community at no cost and includes:

edzone.k12hsn.org



- Blogs
- Wikis
- Videos
- Photos
- Podcasting
- Document sharing
- Instant Messaging
- Social Networking
- Moodle (course management)
- MyTechDesk (ticket management)
- Videoconference scheduling



Tools for Today's Classroom
edzone.k12hsn.org

Benefits of edZone

- *Trusted community of educators*
- *Search across applications*
- *Reliably hosted on the state network*
- *Built by educators for educators*
- *Free for California schools!*

Now Reporting as Connected School Districts

- *Healdsburg Unified (Sonoma)*
- *Jurupa Unified (Riverside)*
- *San Jose Unified (Santa Clara)*
- *Shaffer Union Elementary (Lassen)*
- *Compton Unified (Los Angeles)*
- *Glendale Unified (Los Angeles)*



New Cybersafety Resources Available at k12hsn.org

Learning how to avoid the Internet's shadowy corners has become an essential skill our children must develop to navigate for their schoolwork and beyond. Adults also need to learn that the Internet their children access can be much different than the world they inhabit. While no one needs to be frightened of the Internet, it is important to become skilled at avoiding the "shadowy corners."

The California K12 High Speed Network is providing comprehensive cybersafety resources to enable parents and teachers to acquire the knowledge they need to keep their children safe on the Internet. Parents will become familiar with definitions, explanations and examples of social networking, blogging, etc... They will get ideas for setting up rules and guidelines for safe Internet use at home. Educators will find curriculum ideas, cyberbullying resources and examples of school policy. Finally, the Students section covers what children should know and what they should do to keep safe while on the Internet.

For more information and to access these resources, visit:

www.k12hsn.org/resources/cybersafety

CTAP4 and RSDSS Provide Program Improvement Tools

February 20, 2008: CTAP Region IV and Regional System of District and School Support (RSDSS) are providing free tools -the CST tool and the benchmark analysis tool- designed to assist program improvement efforts. Both free tools use Microsoft Excel.

Online Courses Aim to Prevent Dropouts

February 12, 2008 -*Washington Post*: Online courses offer a more flexible approach that large, impersonal, rule-bound schools lack and many schools are adding them to their anti-dropout campaigns.

Social Networking for the K-12 Set

February 11, 2008 -*ISTE*: Education technology leaders are ever seeking new ways to eliminate the traditional social and geographic boundaries that hinder communication and collaboration for both K-12 students and educators.



Roundup of State Laws on Cyberbullying

February 7, 2008 -*USA Today*: A least seven states, including Iowa, Minnesota, New Jersey and Oregon, passed cyberbullying laws in 2007. Five more - Maryland, Missouri, New York, Rhode Island and Vermont - are considering similar legislation this year.

MIT Orients Course Materials Online to K-12

February 5th, 2008 - *Education Week*: While many universities have set up free, online video, audio, and print course materials in recent years, the MIT high school site is unusual both in terms of the volume of information available and its organization for a K-12 audience.

To receive our "Weekly Recap" via email, contact mfraysse@icoe.org

Visit www.k12hsn.org/about/news for our daily selection of news or subscribe to our RSS feed!

Major Videoconferencing Upgrades

The K12HSN has recently completed a refresh of the centralized videoconferencing resources. This refresh included upgrades to the hardware as well as new features to the K12video scheduling system.

The hardware refresh has given users better quality, and we now support high definition capabilities. Other enhancements such as redundancy are giving us greater reliability. The refresh also included a software upgrade to the gatekeepers which now gives us the ability to share content in multipoint calls. The scheduling system has also received some feature enhancements which came from user suggestions. These features include:

- Improved email notifications
- A "No PIN Required" option
- The ability for you to dial-out to endpoints
- Windows streaming



This upgrade was an important step in meeting the growing demand for K-12 videoconferencing. If you have any questions, please contact Alan Phillips at (760) 312-6158 or email alanp@k12hsn.org.

Videoconferencing in the Classroom: Megaconference Jr. joins K-12 students worldwide via advanced multipoint videoconferencing

Megaconference Jr. is an all virtual K-12 videoconference event designed to give students in elementary and secondary schools around the world the opportunity to communicate, collaborate and contribute to each other's learning in real time, using advanced multipoint video conferencing technology. For twelve hours on February 21, thousands of K-12 students from 13 countries around the world joined together in a virtual classroom to deliver presentations and activities focusing on a wide array of academic and cultural projects.

K12HSN was one of 22 organizations worldwide which provided high capacity multipoint videoconferencing technology to make this event possible. Technical support and facilitation of the Megaconference Jr. event in California were provided in collaboration with the K12HSN. The network bandwidth available on the California K-12 High Speed Network also contributed to the success of this event.



Archived streams from MegaConference Jr. are available at: <http://commonsvcg.oar.net/megaconference/>

California K-12 High Speed Network

The California K-12 High Speed Network (K12HSN) is a program funded by the California Department of Education. K12HSN provides network connectivity, Internet services, teaching and learning application coordination, and videoconferencing coordination and support for California's K-12 public schools. K12HSN was established in an effort to increase learning opportunities for all K-12 students while expanding professional development and information resources to teachers and school administrators. For more information, please contact the K12HSN office at (760) 312-6158 or email info_request@k12hsn.org.

www.k12hsn.org

