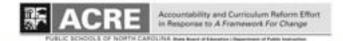
Public Schools of North Carolina



Digital Textbooks and Digital Resources in North Carolina's Schools

Joint Legislative Oversight Education Committee
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Why digital?

- We have entered the digital information age; digital books, newspapers, magazines, music and videos are distributed via the Internet for consumption on digital devices.
- In the Speak Up: 2009 survey, US students identified lack of digital content as a key factor keeping them from excelling.



Why digital?

- As our assessments shift from traditional to online, interactive formats, so should our instruction.
- For many of our learners, technology and digital resources and communication is a way of life everywhere but school.



What is a Digital Textbook?

- A digital textbook is an instructional or educational book in digital form.
- Static v. Dynamic content
- Many digital textbooks incorporate multimedia and simulations.



What are Digital Resources?

- Digital resources are instructional materials, generally accessible via the internet. Some examples include:
 - Media and Multimedia
 - Research materials
 - Educator tools
 - Learner tools



What are the Benefits of Digital Textbooks & Digital Resources for NC's Students and Teachers?

- The benefits for the NC K12 educational system can be categorized into three groups:
 - Quality
 - Access
 - Value



Benefits: Quality

- Multimedia and interactivity
- Up-to-date information
- Student annotations



Benefits: Access

- Customization
- Localization
- Adaptability for Special Needs
- Availability



Benefits: Value

- Potential Cost Savings
- Open Education Resources
- Increasing Competition
- Student Health Issues



How are the schools in NC using digital resources and digital textbooks?

- Many NC districts are using digital resources and digital textbooks.
- The majority of those using digital textbooks are using static resources provided by traditional textbook vendors.



How are the schools in NC using digital resources and digital textbooks?

- Statewide, Microsoft IT Academy
- NCVPS utilizes MANY online tools and digital resources
- IMPACT Model School
- Mooresville Graded School District Digital Reform
- Granville County Schools digital math materials
- CMS Digital Science Curriculum





How are the schools in NC using digital resources and digital textbooks?

- Apple iPads and Amazon Kindles (or other eBook readers) for eBooks as supplemental texts.
- The LEARN NC 8th Grade NC History eTextbook pilot, 2009-2010.



LEARN NC Digital Textbook

- In 2009-10, LEARN NC launched a pilot for its 8th Grade NC History digital textbook.
 - Twelve schools participated.
 - The digital textbook is a collection of primary sources, readings, and multimedia.



LEARN NC Digital Textbook

- Benefits of The LEARN NC model
 - High-quality, online, interactive, media-rich
 - Content is aligned to NC state standards
 - Modular content, easily reused in multiple textbooks
 - Expertise and experiences unique to NC
 - Open and free to NC schools



Digital Reform

- Favoring digitally-based instructional practices
- Pockets of excellence and good examples in NC's schools making the transition
- Race to the Top will help bring infrastructure needed to move forward with digital reform.
 - \$34.5M in NC Education Cloud infrastructure for LEA use
 - \$75M+ of RttT funds in LEA/charter Scopes of Work to increase wireless capacity and add additional teaching and learning devices
 - Additional \$20M+ from other fund sources





Why aren't ALL NC schools using digital textbooks and digital resources?

- An informal survey of LEA Technology
 Directors indicates some primary reasons:
 - Lack of sufficient student hardware
 - Lack of sufficient infrastructure
 - Administrators and Teachers have not changed from the traditional instructional model.



- Virginia's Beyond Textbooks initiative, 2010-2011
 - Includes iPads with online resources and digital textbooks in four high schools.
 - Content partners provided digital content at no cost to VDOE and participating school districts.



- Georgia is piloting a digital textbook initiative:
 - Goal = cost-effective and self-funded
 - Provide PD for teachers for improvement of instruction
 - Increase student technology literacy
 - Increase parent engagement at home



- South Carolina is moving to an eLearning model:
 - Access to relevant content anytime and anywhere.
 - The opportunity and skills to participate in a national and global community.
 - Partnership with SC Public TV and Discovery
 Education to provide economy-of-scale pricing



New legislation in Florida (State Bill 2120)
requires that by 2015-2016 all adopted K-12
educational resources be available in digital
form and that LEAs use at least 50% of their
state allocated instructional materials funding
for digital resources.



How can North Carolina Move Forward with Digital Reform?

 Much can be done to spur digital innovation in our state's schools, both in the short term and long term.



How can North Carolina Move Forward with Digital Reform?

- Short Term Recommendations
 - Clarify textbook adoption statutes to increase LEA flexibility and remove audit exceptions by state auditors.
 - Modify School Improvement Plan statutes to provide increased flexibility and drive innovative practices
 - Provide sustained funding for statewide digital resources; economy of scale decreases costs



How can North Carolina Move Forward with Digital Reform?

- Long Term Recommendations
 - Commission a task force to study the current
 Textbook Commission statutes to determine
 effectiveness and whether there is ongoing need.
 - Commission a task force to study the feasibility of, and methods for, providing a digital learning device for all K12 learners and educators.

