

School Leaders Discover the Top Five Reasons To Use the State-Funded K-12 Databases

1) 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.

2) 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.

3) 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.

4) 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.

5) 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.