

# Department of Curriculum, Instruction and Technology RESPONSE

September 2008

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**BOCES**

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## What's New in CIT

By Paula Pisano

**C**IT integrates the areas of curriculum, instruction, administration and technology through a vast array of support programs. CIT offers Nassau County schools new ideas, a wide variety of services, support, resources, training, and the latest technologies for every aspect of the education process. Our goal is to help educators provide all our children with the very best education possible.

With over 100 services that are designed to support, augment and inspire educational activities specifically in Nassau County schools, CIT is here for you. This issue of the CIT Response will share information about new programs like SchoolWires or Digital Content delivery through HotChalk; and for you science people, Discovery Education Science may be what you

have been waiting for all these years.

Let me not forget about Bold, Formative Assessment and our Health and Allied services.

We are also featuring The Learning Studio in our Spotlight section...see page four to learn all about this new classroom of the future.

And don't forget to look over the Upcoming Events. I'm sure you don't want to miss out on the many workshops and training sessions going on throughout the year, like the Professional Development for the 21st Century.

It's all in this issue; just browse through the pages to explore which of our programs might be right for you.



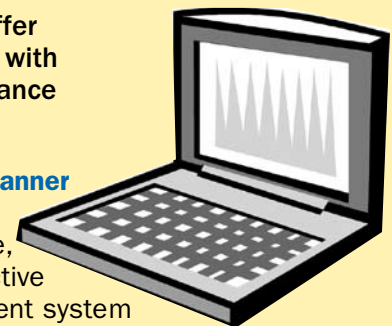
## Guidance Technology Support

**Guidance Technology Support (GTS) is pleased to offer two new add-on products that integrate seamlessly with Counselor's Office from Naviance, the premier guidance software solution for middle and high schools.**

**eduDOCS** allows for the submission of forms (transcripts, secondary school and mid-year reports, and teacher recommendations) to nearly 800 colleges, including the roughly 300 Common Application schools – plus 500 additional colleges and universities in the U.S. that have agreed to accept electronic submissions through Docufide. Schools save paper, printing, and postage while making the entire college application process faster and easier to manage for guidance departments and their students.

### Career Planner

is an innovative, cost-effective assessment system that helps students learn more about themselves and their career interests, and assists guidance counselors in guiding students and families about post-secondary educational and career opportunities.



**For more information contact Matthew Hejna at (516) 608-6648 or [mhejna@mail.nasboces.org](mailto:mhejna@mail.nasboces.org)**

# Technology R&D offers Three New Services

**Discovery Education Science** is the new online digital curriculum supplement for elementary and middle school science education. Enhance science instruction with up-to-date, standards-based resources, coupled with a real-time assessment tool that allows educators to monitor student progress and recommend resources based on student's individual needs. Discovery Education Science delivers content in a flexible, online format that is adaptable to the different learning styles of students. Designed to address differences between elementary and middle school instruction, Discovery Education Science offers appropriate resources that encourage educators to make the most of their time, engaging students with science.

**HotChalk** is a learning environment for K-12 teachers, students, and parents that includes a learning management system (LMS), a rich library of teacher-contributed lesson plans, premium digital content like NBC News

video, and professional development for teachers in a Web-based environment. Available through any Internet browser, the HotChalk Learning Environment is an easy-to-use system that brings teachers, students and parents together to improve education.

**SchoolWires** is a website management platform that makes creating and updating a school website easier than editing a Microsoft Word document. The SchoolWires platform includes a complete suite of online modules to manage every aspect of your school's website to improve efficiency while enhancing communication, collaboration and achievement. Teachers and administrators can use SchoolWires to share homework assignments, test schedules, learning content, calendars, announcements and more.

Contact Paula Pisano at (516) 608-6666 for more information.

## Health and Allied Services

**H**ealth and Allied Services is a little-known aspect of CIT, serving the school districts by providing health staff to non-public schools within your district. Due to the increasing numbers of students with chronic and serious health needs attending our schools, the role of health-related staff becomes more and more important to student success. Specifically, we can set up a Health Office with an RN and all of the supplies and equipment needed to address the needs of students while they are in school. If needed, we can provide a school doctor to conduct school physicals and provide clearance for intramural sports. Additionally, we can provide a School Psychologist who will conduct assessments for district services, provide individual and group counseling, support teachers and families, and develop school-wide healthy living programs. School Social Workers are also available to provide the services described above, with the exception of testing. Finally, we can provide Speech Improvement to students who have articulation deficits which do not reach the threshold for Special Education Services.



If you would like to learn more about this service please contact Linda Mancz, Supervisor, at (516) 396-2255 or [lmancz@mail.nasboces.org](mailto:lmancz@mail.nasboces.org).

## Instructional Data Warehouse

**T**he Instructional Data Warehouse (IDW) has many new or expanding services that we will be offering during this school year. These include:

- First and second grade formative assessment project—the results of which will go into the IDW
- Continuing Regents project which allows districts to analyze the data in the IDW
- Advanced Placement exams placed in the IDW
- Teacher Interface will be expanding to more districts

**Additional information on these projects will be out shortly.** We are planning to allow districts to create formative assessments in conjunction with DACS. We will place these assessments in our IDW and offer the following reports:

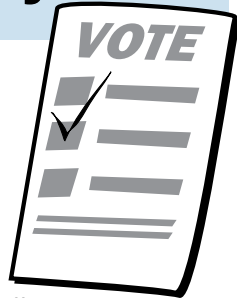
- Item Analysis
- Item Analysis Totals
- Lite WrAP
- ChAP
- Student Roster
- Teacher Reports (group coded)
- Annual Student Assessment Profile – downloadable

**Our hope is to further the pursuit of Data Driven Instruction.** Save the following dates for the Instructional Data Warehouse (IDW) User Group Meetings scheduled for this school year:

- November 7, 2008
- February 10, 2009
- March 3, 2009 (snow day)
- May 5, 2009

## Bold Systems, LLC-Election Management System

**F**or over 20 years, BOLD Systems has been involved in simplifying school elections. Their Computerized Voter Registration and Election Management System improves voter registration and accuracy. It eliminates the old buff card system—replacing it with computerized list of all eligible voters along with their polling place, making it easy to record who has voted.



The BOLD System integrates the county voting records and the in-district records into one database. It produces voter signature books that are given to the district before the election. In addition, index cards can be printed and sent to voters so that they know the dates and where their polling site is located.

The latest BOLD innovation Version 2.0, allows scanning of the voter's name directly into the system, thus speeding up the process as well as allowing for greater accuracy. Because the voter's name has been scanned into the system, a variety of useful reports can be generated, such as:

- Call lists on Election Day of parents and staff who have not yet turned out to vote
- Customized reports during Election Day
- Poll lists on the spot for poll watchers

There are currently 28 Nassau districts who subscribe and four districts throughout the state that cross contract with Nassau BOCES.

Contact Peg Carlon at (516) 396-2750 for more information.

## Nassau BOCES School Library System

### Online Databases, better than Google

**O**nline databases are provided by commercial vendors and cover a wide range of subjects and topics. Your students could be looking at historical newspapers from all the 50 states from the 1600's to the present, scholar articles for music, art or Advanced Placement science. A wealth of knowledge awaits them along with the proper citation information for documenting their work.



#### *But how could you use them to their best advantage?*

Your first stop should be to your school librarian in order to obtain a list of those products that have been purchased for school use, along with user-names and passwords. Visiting the help area of the particular online database includes directions for doing a basic search by subject, keyword or entire document. Many of the terms (such as Boolean, wildcard character) are linked to a definition. Then there are the general search tips to help the user draft a more accurate search (using higher order thinking skills).

Some, for example, TeachingBooks.net, (provided once again, to all, free-of-charge by the Nassau BOCES School Library System) have set up webinars or brief movies in various lengths which explain how to navigate the site.

A list of those online database vendors has been posted on the Nassau BOCES School Library System online database section of our web site, [www.nassauboces.org/nsls](http://www.nassauboces.org/nsls).

## Formative Assessment Opportunities Expand for 2008-2009

**T**hrough the Data Analysis and Curriculum Support program and the Instructional Data Warehouse program, districts will be able to create district level and building level formative assessments that can be also scanned into the IDW. The district will also be able to access Item Analysis, WrAP, ChAP, Student Roster, Teacher Roster, and Student Assessment Profile reports through the IDW.

The details of the project will be available in the beginning of September. This project is in addition to the assessment pre-test program and the Grades 1 and 2 district cooperative program.

Contact Elaine Zseller at [ezseller@mail.nasboces.org](mailto:ezseller@mail.nasboces.org) for more information.

# Spotlight

## Learning & Leading through Design and Innovation The Learning Studio

The Nassau BOCES Learning Studio provides a powerful teaching and learning model for educators who visit this dynamic learning environment, housed at the Nassau BOCES Duffy Avenue Center. The Learning Studio has been designed to show districts that Nassau BOCES is the leader in designing, implementing, and supporting dynamic teaching and learning environments for the 21st century student. This environment is strikingly modern and flexible, with a definitive focus on the programs and services that CIT provides. It isn't only hardware that enhances the learning experience — furniture, lighting, sound and color all play important roles. Along with soft lighting, gentle color, a quality sound system, and functional, dual purpose furniture, the Learning Studio seamlessly incorporates the following technology into its teaching and learning environment:

- Teacher station computer along with laptops incorporated into multifunction desks
- Smartboard with wireless projector
- Wireless slate for remote Smartboard annotation
- Videoconferencing equipment for making local, national & international connections
- Document camera
- Tablet PC
- Apple iPod
- Logitech sound system with microphone
- Digital video recorder
- Student response system

After experiencing The Learning Studio first-hand, educators from many districts have walked away armed with a fresh approach to fostering critical 21st century skills in their schools and classrooms. Let us custom-design a Learning Studio experience for you and your educational team.

To arrange for a Learning Studio experience for your district, contact Trish Iannacone, (516) 608-6662.



Cliff Steinberg and Dina Maggiacomo, of Nassau BOCES CIT Department, demonstrating the Learning Studio at the Duffy Avenue Center.

For information on any of CIT's programs, including back issues of CIT Response, up-to-date education news, NCLB, special reports, new services and more, visit the Curriculum, Instruction and Technology Web site at: [www.nassauboces.org/cit](http://www.nassauboces.org/cit)

## Upcoming Events for September

### Simple Assessment Presentation

When: September 11th

### HotChalk Lunch & Learn

When: September 22nd

### Discovery Science Presentation

When: September 25th

For more information, visit [www.nassauboces.org/cit/it/mcs](http://www.nassauboces.org/cit/it/mcs)