

CYBERSMART! PARTNERS WITH THE NATIONAL SCHOOL BOARDS
ASSOCIATION TECHNOLOGY LEADERSHIP NETWORK TO CYBERSMART!
ONLINE WORKSHOPS, FACILITATED PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN 21ST
CENTURY SKILLS

Today's students are tuning out school because the ways they are asked to learn are dramatically different from the ways they learn in their digital world. But when schools open their doors to digital learning, student engagement and achievement soar.

Bernardsville, New Jersey November 17, 2008– CyberSmart! Education announced today its partnership with the National School Boards Association Technology Leadership network to CyberSmart! Online Workshops, facilitated professional development in 21st century skills.

By engaging educators hands-on in the same kinds of learning they are expected to facilitate in the classroom. CyberSmart! Online Workshops provide a new and exciting way to provide professional development.

“NSBA’s Technology Leadership Network (TLN) is pleased to welcome CyberSmart! Education as a partner to provide online professional development in 21st century skills to NSBA’s TLN member districts,” said Gene Brodersen, NSBA Director of National Affiliate Services and Technology Programs.

Five CyberSmart! Online Workshops

Safety and Security Online

Includes strategies for fostering online safety, privacy and security in support of student learning

Manners, Bullying and Ethics

Covers strategies for fostering academic integrity, and encouraging responsible digital citizenship

Authentic Learning and Creativity

Provides hands-on practice in using the Internet to facilitate higher-order thinking skills—moving beyond copy-and paste assignments.

Research and Information Fluency

Include instruction in locating, identifying and evaluating suitable online resources to support student learning

Twenty-First Century Challenges

Supports educator “buy-in” to the importance of 21st century learning by investigating the implications of a digitally connected world and relating it to instructional strategies in a technology-enhanced environment instructional

WORKSHOP FEATURES

Learn by doing

CyberSmart! Online Workshops enable educators to move from the theoretical to the practical with a hands-on learning experience. Educators participate in authentic tasks structured and connected to their actual professional environment, requiring inquiry, reflection, and experimentation with 21st century skills.

Each workshop provides educators with significant opportunities for active learning. The research-based design has shown to enable measurable positive effects on educators' knowledge and skills, resulting in changes in classroom practice.

Trained facilitators

The use of a facilitator—an experienced educational professional—combined with the real-world relevance of CyberSmart! Online Workshops and a supportive online community, leads to an unusually high completion rate of over 85 percent.

Access to experts

At the heart of every learner-centered workshop is the inquiry-based CyberSmart! Knowledgebase. This is a unique, interactive, multimedia database of an ever-growing list of now more than 70 experts on all things Internet—from its impact on society, learning, and achievement to its ethical and legal implications.

With its use integrated throughout each workshop, the CyberSmart! Knowledgebase provides a unique learning dimension for all workshop participants. Topic areas of practical relevance to each participant's professional context drive their learning explorations in the Knowledgebase.

Collaborative community

Each workshop consists of a professional learning community of 20 to 25 educators plus one facilitator. Weekly tasks are structured to encourage collaborative problem-solving and reflection around workshop content.

Anywhere/anytime learning

Each week, over a period of four consecutive weeks, participants have a list of To-Do's, structured in convenient "bite size" pieces. There are no scheduled meeting times. Days, nights, weekends—it's up to each participant, provided the weekly schedule of tasks is completed. Learners move together from week to week, requiring no more than 2.5 hours per week.

Easy data management

A real-time progress monitoring report on every participant is continuously available online for school or district administrators. This data is easily configured into a variety of formats to support funding requirements. Progress data also permits CyberSmart! facilitators to identify reluctant learners immediately and intervene effectively.

Built-in evaluation tools

Collected data from each workshop—a pre- and post-survey, a portfolio of all written work, and an end-of-workshop anonymous evaluation—is available to gauge the impact of CyberSmart! Online Workshops.

Customizable and scaleable

CyberSmart! Online Workshops can be customized using local experts and new instructional activities. And our train-the-trainer model makes large-scale facilitated professional development implement

For more information and a detailed run-through of the CyberSmart! Online Workshops contact:

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About CyberSmart! Education

CyberSmart! fosters 21st century skills to increase student engagement and prepare students to achieve in today's digital society. CyberSmart! Online Workshops, facilitated professional development, give educators a hands-on experience in 21st century skills—the new basic skills—to meet the learning needs of today's students. Educators engage in the same kinds of learning they are expected to facilitate in the classroom. Two free resources support daily teaching. The free CyberSmart! Student Curriculum empowers students to use the Internet safely, responsibly, and effectively. The free CyberSmart! Educator Toolbar puts 21st century skills into practice every day, with just-in-time 24/7 access to annotated essential resources to support student learning.

For more information about CyberSmart! visit www.cybersmart.org.

About The National School Boards Association Technology Leadership Network

The NSBA Education Technology Programs was launched in 1985 by NSBA and its federation of state school boards associations to help advance the wise use of technology in public education.

NSBA's Technology Leadership Network (TLN), founded in 1987, is the district networking program that offers a complete package of benefits, and is an innovative way to bring the school board, administrators, and the district technology team together to glean the best practices from other districts and to make well-informed technology decisions. More than 350 school districts, education agencies, and colleges of education benefit from this remarkable support system. For more information about the NSBA Technology Leadership Network visit www.nsba.org.