

Electronic Student Responses for Instant Feedback

The SmartTRAX student-response system allows students to answer questions, take quizzes, and respond to class polls using wireless keypads. As students answer questions, the results are transmitted directly to the teacher, who can view them privately or display them—with or without students' names—to the class. The instant scoring allows teachers to know what students understand and which students are struggling with which concepts. The software already has many quizzes, questions, and activities, but teachers can also create, save, and use their own materials. The keypads have full keyboards, number pads, and LCD screens that display eight lines of text—all of which make them easy to use. The batteries are designed to last 14 hours to eliminate frustrations with low battery life, and the wireless connection uses radio frequency so that line of sight is not required. For more information, please visit www.learnstar.com.



Wikis for Educators

Create a wiki for your school! Let students and teachers add and edit cross-linked information on the school and the community—the cafeteria menu, assignments in specific classes, the history of the school mascot, information on cocurricular activities, and anything else they want to share with one another. For example, a wiki page about the school yearbook could link to information about school picture day and to a page that lists current members of the yearbook staff and explains how to join. The advantage of a wiki is that, unlike other types of Web sites, it's easy for anyone in the school community to add and update information. (You can decide whether to restrict editing privileges or to allow all stakeholders to update the site.) Users simply enter keywords to search for entries. For more information, please visit www.wikispaces.com.

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