

Google and Area Education Agencies Collaborate

Iowa's Area Education Agencies (AEAs) have entered into an agreement with Google to provide all K-12 schools in Iowa with free access to Google Apps for Education. Iowa is the third state in the country to form this partnership, and in addition to providing support to public schools, Iowa will be the first to provide support to non-public schools.

Approximately 550,000 students and educators will have the opportunity to be connected to a common e-mail, chat, and calendar system (Gmail, Google Talk and Google Calendar); cloud collaboration tools (Google Docs, Google Sites, & Groups); and multimedia tools (Google Sites & Video) that will enable them to work together and learn more effectively.

Iowa AEA consultants will receive formal certification in Google Apps and participate in hands-on training. AEA consultants will then apply this training to help teachers in their local schools learn how to use Google Apps effectively in the classroom. In addition, the consultants will be just an e-mail or a phone call away to answer questions or to follow-up with implementation advice.

Students and educators will be able to begin using their new tools as the 2010-2011 school year gets underway.

Schools that choose to use Google Apps will see a significant savings in their IT budgets, and most importantly, will be teaching students the skills they'll need to use these types of digital tools in the workplace.