



**Cooperating School Districts®**

*A Collaboration That Works!*

Administrative Services

Business Services

Professional Development

Cooperating School Districts provides its member districts, as well as non-member districts, a wide array of high-quality, cost-effective services, resources and leadership, designed to help school districts achieve educational, professional and financial goals.





## Administrative Services

- \$30,000,000 in products and services are sold through Cooperating School Districts
- \$17,000,000 in plan assets are invested in the CSD Retirement Trust
- 320,000 students are positively impacted by Cooperating School Districts' services
- 300,000 teachers & administrators nationwide use the REAP system to find educational jobs
- 100,000 different products are offered to districts through cooperative purchasing
- 40,000 school employees are served by Cooperating School Districts
- 27,911 teachers benefit from innovative staff development opportunities at Cooperating School Districts
- 21,000 employees, spouses dependents and retirees are covered by CSD's Insurance Trust
- 546 schools take advantage of Cooperating School Districts' powerful network of resources, expertise and ideas
- 68 staff members of Cooperating School Districts serve nearly 325,000 teachers and students in the St. Louis metropolitan area
- 61 public school districts are members of Cooperating School Districts
- 9 counties in the metropolitan area are reached by Cooperating School Districts' services
- 1 unique and dedicated organization serving the needs of educators across the metropolitan area

**Conference Meetings:** Three times each year, superintendents and board members convene to discuss emerging issues and vote on Cooperating School Districts' governance issues. A guest speaker is featured to share expertise on educational trends, challenges or opportunities.

**Communications:** A wide range of services to help districts communicate their critical messages with audiences including students, teachers, parents, media and the community is provided. Services include video production, prepress, graphic design, crisis consulting, communications planning and more.

**Legislation Advocacy:** Educational legislation on the local, state and federal levels is monitored on behalf of member districts. Cooperating School Districts lobbies and provides testimony for passage of beneficial laws and the defeat of undesirable ones.

**Media Relations:** Assistance to member school districts is provided for everyday coverage and crisis situations. Training for school personnel is also offered to build media savvy of district spokespersons.

**Partnerships and Collaborations:** Cooperating School Districts works with a number of local, state, regional and national organizations and businesses to bring expertise, opportunities and resources to public schools in the St. Louis metropolitan area.

**Public Opinion Polls:** Through a partnership with Unicom-ARC, member districts receive discounted prices on attitude and opinion research polls.

**Superintendent Meetings:** Regular meetings of school superintendents are coordinated to provide a forum for sharing, collaboration and support.

**Videotape Editing and Production:** Cooperating School Districts houses a television studio equipped with a digital camera, teleprompter and Final Cut Pro Editing System. Through CSD video production services, remote videotaping, narration and fully-licensed background music are available.



## Business Services

**Cooperative Purchasing:** More than 100 school supply and equipment vendors feature over 100,000 products offered at substantial discounts through either an on-line or print catalog purchasing program. AEPA contracts apply.

**Core Data Reports:** An extensive web-based survey of operational and personnel statistics is compiled into several volumes of research documents and made available to member districts.

**Digital Online Library:** Access over 4,000 full-length videos, 50,000 video clips, 20,000 images, 23,000 encyclopedia articles and more. All are correlated to Missouri Show-Me Standards.

**Educational Cable Television:** Three channels broadcast instructional video programs to districts in St. Louis County, providing instructional and professional development programming.

**Insurance Trust:** Benefits for over 21,000 school employees, spouses, dependents and retirees provided to participating school districts at highly competitive rates with a high level of service.

**ITFS (Instructional Television Fixed Services):** Two ITFS broadcast channels are available to schools with special antennae, providing instructional video and professional development programming on demand.

**Natural Gas Consortium:** CSD and the Missouri School Boards' Association form a Natural Gas Consortium to save districts money on the purchase of natural gas.

**Pooled Financing:** By combining needs of many school districts to create an attractive, single, large financing pool, CSD is able to provide financing for fixed assets and reduce costs to school districts.

**REAP:** The Regional Education Applicant Placement program is an on-line application database available in nine states. Teachers, administrators and support staff file an application through REAP, and school human resource personnel can search for qualified applicants and post positions. Service is FREE to all applicants.

**Retirement Trust:** Reduced investment fees for employees increases their retirement balances, and districts save time and money with reduced administrative responsibilities.



## Professional Development and Training Services

**Administrative Mentoring:** The AMP initiative provides new school district leaders with access to trained mentors. Through the program, new leaders receive 26 hours of customized mentoring support for two years.

**Cadre:** A pool of teacher-consultants brings affordable professional development to schools, one workshop at a time or as part of a yearlong plan.

**CHARACTERplus:** The CHARACTERplus program touches 425,000 students and 30,000 teachers in over 877 schools. The Character Education Conference, a nationally recognized event sponsored by CHARACTERplus, highlights innovative character education “best practices,” inspiring keynotes and character education related exhibits.

**International Education Consortium:** Teachers of the arts, humanities, history and social studies have access to new ways of teaching and engaging students, plus numerous opportunities to advance their own learning and teaching skills.

**Leadership Academy:** This program provides professional development training targeted at teachers, aspiring principals, and practicing principals.

**MELL:** The Missouri Migrant Education and English Language Learning program, funded by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, is a statewide resource serving those who educate English language learners and migrant students in Missouri.

**Midwest Education Technology Conference:** An annual regional conference focusing on integrating technology into the classroom, technology-related exhibits and highly recognized and respected speakers in the area of technology and education.

**Missouri School Improvement Program:** An MSIP Facilitator provides support and technical assistance to districts with their Comprehensive School Improvement Plan, MSIP, school improvement plans and the Missouri Assessment Program (MAP).

**National Board Certification:** The National Board's mission is to advance the quality of teaching and learning by maintaining high and rigorous standards for what accomplished teachers should know and be able to provide in the classroom.

**New Links to New Learning:** Two-way videoconferencing technology provides opportunities for students to dialog and participate in interactive lessons globally.

**On Line Courses:** High school students may enroll in regular courses, enrichment courses and advanced placement for credit. All courses are certified by the North Central Association.

**Positive Behavior Support:** PBS is a proactive system to put strategies in place for all children while building in support for those at risk and/or those who receive special education services for behavior problems.

**Missouri Professional Learning Communities (PLC):** The PLC model focuses on increasing student achievement by building the capacity of school personnel to create and sustain the conditions that promote high levels of student and adult learning.

**St. Louis Principals Academy:** This academy is a year-long, nationally recognized, professional development opportunity for school administrators and leaders from the St. Louis region.

**School Services:** St. Louis area educators are provided premier growth and development opportunities, specialized academies, consulting and evaluation services, community resources, plus information about models and applications of current research.

**Special Education:** The Special Education consultants at the St. Louis RPDC assist districts in programming and planning for students with special needs.

**Support Staff Academy:** An annual mini-conference developed especially for employees in every support role in school districts—clerical, custodial, grounds-keeping, health care, maintenance, nutrition and food services, and transportation provides workshops and break-out sessions covering topics specific to their roles in the workplace.

**Teachers Academy:** The Teachers Academy provides an intellectually stimulating and nurturing environment for both personal and professional growth through collaboration and action research. Academy fellows are involved in a year-long commitment to the program.

**Tele Lab:** Workshops teaching how to integrate technology into the classroom are offered on a variety of software applications at the beginning, intermediate and advanced levels in this high-tech classroom environment. Classes are offered throughout the year.

Cooperating School Districts offers many additional programs, products and services not listed here. Some of these are included with membership. Some involve additional fees to cover administrative support, coordination, planning and operating costs. Private and parochial schools are also eligible to purchase certain products, programs and services. Please contact us for more information about the programs and services best suited for your district or school and its specific needs. Contact information for each program can be found on our website or call the number below.



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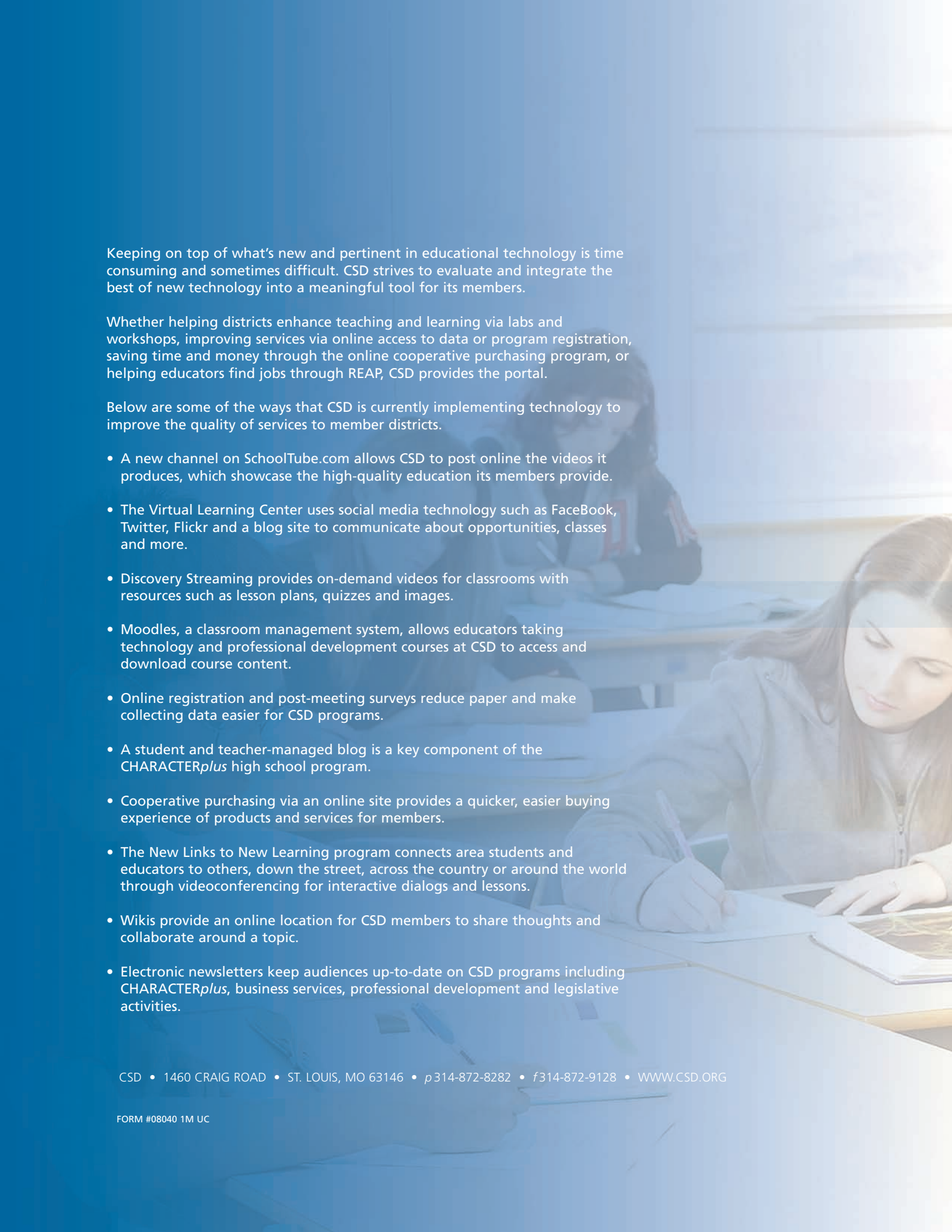
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Keeping on top of what's new and pertinent in educational technology is time consuming and sometimes difficult. CSD strives to evaluate and integrate the best of new technology into a meaningful tool for its members.

Whether helping districts enhance teaching and learning via labs and workshops, improving services via online access to data or program registration, saving time and money through the online cooperative purchasing program, or helping educators find jobs through REAP, CSD provides the portal.

Below are some of the ways that CSD is currently implementing technology to improve the quality of services to member districts.

- A new channel on SchoolTube.com allows CSD to post online the videos it produces, which showcase the high-quality education its members provide.
- The Virtual Learning Center uses social media technology such as FaceBook, Twitter, Flickr and a blog site to communicate about opportunities, classes and more.
- Discovery Streaming provides on-demand videos for classrooms with resources such as lesson plans, quizzes and images.
- Moodles, a classroom management system, allows educators taking technology and professional development courses at CSD to access and download course content.
- Online registration and post-meeting surveys reduce paper and make collecting data easier for CSD programs.
- A student and teacher-managed blog is a key component of the CHARACTER $\rho$ us high school program.
- Cooperative purchasing via an online site provides a quicker, easier buying experience of products and services for members.
- The New Links to New Learning program connects area students and educators to others, down the street, across the country or around the world through videoconferencing for interactive dialogs and lessons.
- Wikis provide an online location for CSD members to share thoughts and collaborate around a topic.
- Electronic newsletters keep audiences up-to-date on CSD programs including CHARACTER $\rho$ us, business services, professional development and legislative activities.