



Grants and funding

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A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the October issue of EDCompass™ newsletter!

Like many teachers, you've probably found yourself in a conversation recently about how to fund classroom technology. With education budgets being slashed across the country, trying to find the money for technology purchases and then deciding how to spend it can be daunting. In this issue, we've included information about grants and other resources to get you started, along with inspiring stories from other educators who share their fundraising tactics. And you don't want to miss this month's Product Spotlight on the SMART Table, which creates a new multitouch, multiuser experience for your students.

As always, if you have any comments about the newsletter or any of the articles featured in this issue, we'd love to hear from you. Please e-mail your feedback to education@smarttech.com.

NANCY'S NOTES

Now

I am an impatient person, but I like to think that this trait is a good thing. It drives me to do things today that others might be content to do some weeks, months or years from now. Sometimes I feel possessed because I cannot stop thinking or working until I think I'm done. I care about the outcome and will do whatever it takes to reach my goal.

I know that many teachers around the world have exactly the same outlook. They spend the extra time to make a special experience for their students each and every day of each and every year. *Good* isn't good enough – the experience has to be great. *Great* takes time and commitment. And commitment abounds in classrooms everywhere.

The one issue that confounds many of these dedicated teachers is the funding to create the learning environment today that they want and need to engage their young learners. For many teachers, this means obtaining the tech products that they have seen at trade shows, read about or seen other teachers use in their school or district to great advantage.

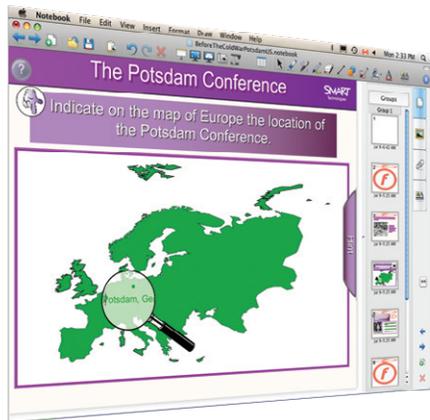
We have seen many teachers take the initiative to get these products into their classrooms even when there is no school or district funding available. They apply for grants. They hold bake sales and car washes. They bring in parents and community members to see what is happening in their classrooms. They pitch the benefits. They sell sponsorships to their classrooms. They ask for donations as they paint a picture of the learning environment they want to create.

Inside this issue, you will read about ways in which you can find the funds to acquire the technology products that you want and need in your classroom. With some planning and creative thinking, you just might get what you need. Not tomorrow. Not next year. Not sometime. Now.

Nancy Knowlton is the CEO of SMART Technologies.



SMART Notebook lesson activities



Find **hundreds** of high-quality **K–12 lesson activities** on the education solutions website. Each lesson is correlated to local curriculum standards and created by classroom teachers or SMART’s team of curriculum resource developers.

Here are a few language arts, physics and history lesson activities to try with your students.

Getting Things in Order

K–3 language arts students can learn how to arrange things in sequential order. There is also a corresponding Senteo™ question set for this activity.

Discontinuous Data

Physics students in grades 7–9 can learn the difference between continuous and discontinuous data. This lesson activity is also available in French and Spanish.

Before the Cold War – the Potsdam Conference

History students in grades 10–12 can learn about the events that may have contributed to the start of the Cold War, and the differences between democracy and communism. This lesson also contains questions that you can use with the Senteo interactive response system.

Resources for technology funding

Grant opportunities

Tight school budgets and restricted spending are making it increasingly difficult for many schools to fund technology purchases. The **grants and funding** section of our education website includes a number of resources designed to help you acquire technology products for your classroom. You can find tips on writing a successful grant application, learn how to mix and match grants, and browse through a list of national and regional funding providers.

[Visit our website](#) to see which grant opportunities might benefit you.

SMARTer Kids™ Foundation of Canada

The **SMARTer Kids Foundation of Canada** also offers support to teachers and students in the classroom. The following are some of the programs you can get involved in.

Teaching Excellence Awards

Through the Teaching Excellence Awards, the SMARTer Kids Foundation recognizes and rewards teachers who have made a significant impact on their students, schools and communities, giving them leading-edge technology products to reach their teaching goals. Currently, the Foundation supports three established teacher-recognition programs:

- **National Teacher of the Year program** – The SMARTer Kids Foundation has a sponsorship commitment, worth more than US\$1 million per year, to the U.S. State and National Teacher of the Year programs until 2010. The sponsorship includes a classroom technology package for each State Teacher of the Year and training for these recipients.
- **Excellence in Teaching Awards – Alberta** – The Excellence in Teaching Awards program, administered by Alberta Education, recognizes outstanding Alberta teachers. Each year, three teachers are selected to receive a SMARTer Kids Foundation Innovative Use of Technology award.
- **MACUL** – The Michigan Association for Computer Users in Learning (MACUL) recognizes and honors MACUL members who have demonstrated outstanding achievement in implementing the use of technology to improve education.

Connections

The Connections program offers a range of cross-cultural activities for sixth-grade teachers and students from the United States and Canada that are designed to foster respect and appreciation for similarities and differences. The SMARTer Kids Foundation equips participating schools with education technology products for easy, effective collaboration and provides teacher professional development.

New grants and fundraising forum on the SMART Exchange

Check out the new grants and fundraising **forum** on the SMART Exchange. You can find out about grant opportunities, share your fundraising ideas and post your best practices for writing grants.

If you’re not already a member of the SMART Exchange, [join today!](#)

MindShare Learning Report contest

If you are teaching in a publicly funded school in Canada, you can win a SMART Board™ 680 interactive whiteboard, Senteo interactive response system, SMART Document Camera and many other ICT products and software from leading classroom technology providers.

The MindShare Learning Report™ is holding a video contest to find out about your interactive classroom technology success stories or hear your vision of a 21st-century classroom. You have two chances to win a valuable prize package worth more than CDN\$10,000 – one in November and another in December.



Visit the MindShare Learning website to find out how you can [enter](#).

New SMART publication for administrators

This fall, we'll be launching a new HTML newsletter for school administrators. If you know an administrator who would be interested, or perhaps you're one yourself, you'll want to check out this publication! Each quarter, subscribers will receive practical news and resources from SMART, including information about the latest research, new SMART products, district case studies and more.

If you're interested, [sign up](#) now to receive your first issue in late November.

FEATURE ARTICLE

Start with a pencil

When Kevin Egan realized that he'd be responsible for raising funds to purchase a SMART Board interactive whiteboard for his classroom, he turned to the most ubiquitous of education tools – the pencil. The scented pencil, to be exact.

The third-grade teacher from B. W. Tinker Elementary School in Waterbury, Connecticut, wanted a simple fundraising activity with lots of appeal for his students, and he found it in the lowly *smencil*. Egan took his idea to his administration and convinced his principal to put any funds raised through his "Smencils for SMART" sales campaign directly toward the purchase of SMART products for the school. [Read the full article](#).

Senteo question sets



You can find a database of [Senteo question sets](#) on our education website. Each question set includes 10 questions that are correlated to local curriculum standards and are compatible with a matching SMART-created lesson activity on the same topic.

Here are some of our newest Senteo question sets that you can use with your math, social studies and science students. Try them out today!

[Going Shopping \(U.S. Coins\)](#)

Math students in grades 2 and 3 can test their ability to recognize coins and add them to make purchases.

[Urbanization in Developing Countries](#)

Social studies students in grades 7–9 can test their knowledge of urbanization and identify some of the push and pull factors associated with it.

[Structure of the Digestive System](#)

Science students in grades 10 and 11 can test their knowledge of the structure of the digestive system and how it functions.

CLASSROOM CONTENT

Sharing content and best practices



Are you creating and sharing your SMART Notebook lesson activities, best practices or tips on the [SMART Exchange](#)? If so, they could be featured in select issues of the newsletter.

If you aren't already doing so and would like to design your own lessons, download a copy of the [Lesson Activity Toolkit](#) and begin creating engaging content like word games, quizzes, crossword puzzles and sorting tables. The Toolkit also offers Adobe® Flash® features such as hide-and-reveal and drag-and-drop tools.

Algebra functions

This [lesson activity](#) from Peggy DuBose, a sixth-grade math teacher at Bullard Intermediate School in Bullard, Texas, bridges the gap between finding patterns and relating them to functions and rules. Peggy puts a special emphasis on vocabulary in an effort to demystify some of the jargon and notations that may intimidate pre-algebra and algebra students.

Keep submitting lesson activities, ideas and advice for your peers on the SMART Exchange – you never know who might be interested in them. If you aren't already a member of the Exchange, [sign up now](#).

NEWS

Update your profile for a chance to win!

It's **important** that we have the most up-to-date and complete information on the newsletter subscription list. This will make it easier for you to enter our contests or participate in other activities. Please take a few minutes to update your profile, and you'll have a chance to win one of five classroom licenses of [SMART Notebook Student Edition](#) software, launching winter 2009. This new software is designed to help students spend less time organizing and taking notes and more time processing and analyzing their lessons. Each classroom license includes 30 student users.

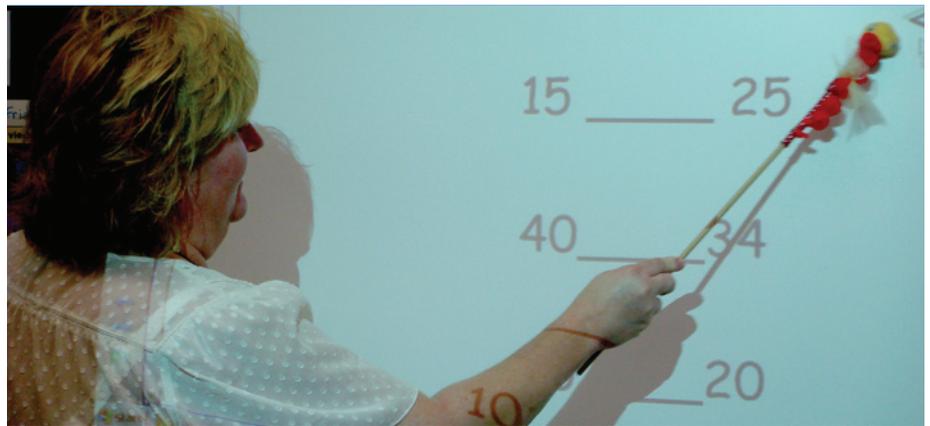
[Update your profile](#) now and be entered to win.

Making your implementation easy

Are you implementing SMART products in your school? If so, you may want to revisit the tips and resources provided in the [August](#) and [September](#) issues of *EDCompass* newsletter. The articles on SMART's services and support will help you get started – you'll find answers to your general inquiries and more detailed information about order processing, training, documentation, technical support, and parts and repairs.

SMART SHOWCASE SCHOOL PROFILE

The SMART Board creates a buzz in Minnesota



Widespread enthusiasm for SMART Board interactive whiteboards transformed [Mahtomedi Public Schools'](#) 10-year technology implementation plan into a 3-year success story.

"This has been the first technology implementation project that I've been involved with where, from start to finish, people were excited about it," says Patrick Crothers, a technology integration specialist with the Minnesota school district. The excitement resulted in a steady flow of technology funding that helped Mahtomedi quickly turn a small SMART Board interactive whiteboard pilot project into a district-wide implementation. [Read the full article](#).

Horizontally amazing – the new SMART Table



Take the hands-on fun of the SMART Board interactive whiteboard. Add ready-to-go learning activities. Then turn the whole thing on its side. And last, impose one unbreakable rule.

If it feels right, do it.

Sweep a triangle across the screen. Squeeze an elephant until it's pint-sized. Match shapes and words with a partner. It's easy, thanks to the Table's multitouch, multiuser functionality.

Collaborative? Yes. Fun? Absolutely.

The SMART Table lets young hands feel their way through learning activities from shape puzzles to spelling games. Our latest innovation has already captured the imaginations of hundreds of children. Young product testers couldn't wait to gather around the Table, and they figured out how to use it in seconds.

Basically, this new product looks like a brightly colored table with an interactive screen for its surface. The SMART Table comes with several digital activities that can easily be customized to suit any lesson. Many of the activities are designed for collaboration, so children quickly learn to work together. Groups of children can use the SMART Table at the same time, and no separate computer is required – you just open the box and turn it on.

To discover more about the SMART Table, check out www.smarttech.com/smarttable.

Fast facts



- Innovative – The SMART Table is the world's first multitouch, multiuser appliance for primary education
- Easy to operate – The Table's touch-screen is intuitive and easy to manipulate, even for the youngest student
- Collaborative – Collaborative games and activities are included, so it makes a perfect learning center
- Adaptable – Children can manipulate objects on the screen with gestures, touch or pens
- Flexible – The Table comes with a toolkit to help you to customize your content
- Versatile – Children can also browse digital content on the Table
- Integrated – The SMART Table can be connected to your SMART Board interactive whiteboard or computer
- For the whole class – Students can share their work on the Table by broadcasting it to a SMART Board interactive whiteboard
- Accessible – Size and orientation of the surface enables groups of students to reach the whole screen

PRODUCT SPOTLIGHT

Learning centers just got cooler ... and more collaborative



The **SMART Table** makes an ideal learning center for younger students. Choose an activity that ties in with your lesson, or customize one for an even tighter fit.

If you want to emphasize collaborative learning, select an activity like the SMART Table Team Challenge. Groups of two or more students have to work together to match the right shape to a word in the center of the Table. They choose from an assortment of squares, circles, triangles and other shapes, simultaneously sliding their choices toward the center.

But here's the catch. All students have to agree on the right shape or their selected shapes bounce back. So the group has to discuss their choices to get the right answer and advance to the next shape. The Team Challenge gives students a truly collaborative lesson in fun.

Up next

Watch for the next issue of *EDCompass* newsletter that will highlight professional development and social networking. This issue will also put the spotlight on SMART Audio, our classroom amplification system.

Ask Christian



Christian Lortz is the product manager for the SMART Table. We asked him about its potential.

EDCompass: *What sort of impact do you think the SMART Table will have in schools?*

Christian: We anticipate that the SMART Table will be one of the groundbreaking technology tools in classrooms. Just as the SMART Board interactive whiteboard has changed the way millions of teachers and students communicate, the SMART Table will transform the world of learning centers and collaborative small group learning.

EDCompass: *You've already tested the SMART Table. What have people said about it so far?*

Christian: When we brought teachers and children to our usability labs for the first time, it was amazing to see their reactions. Teachers immediately understood the concept and started developing ideas about incorporating the SMART Table into their daily activities. One teacher suggested that the product could replace all other group tables in her class. Another one was excited about the possibilities for customizing lesson activities at home, bringing them to school on a USB key and plugging it into the SMART Table.

But it was the children who had the strongest reaction. The moment they touched the screen, they were clapping and cheering. Before long they were exploring the learning activities and discussing them as a group. I'd say they loved it.