

EDCompass newsletter

News and resources for educators using SMART products

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A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the June issue of EDCompass™ newsletter!

It's that time of year again, when educators from across North America converge at one of the world's largest educational technology events, the National Educational Computing Conference (NECC). We'll be there in Washington, DC, with a bigger booth featuring our latest innovations. Educators can hear presentations at our seven stages, enter contests and collect free materials for their classrooms – read further to find out more. And in this month's product spotlight, we're excited to tell you about one of our newest products, the SMART Board™ 685ix interactive whiteboard system. It's the world's first system to combine an ultra-short-throw projector and widescreen interactive whiteboard.

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

NANCY'S NOTES

It's About Time

When I was young, I thought about money almost more than anything else. After all, I had student loans, a car and a house to pay for. Now that I am older, money problems have more or less resolved themselves, and I mostly think about time.

When I was young, I learned of all the things I couldn't do because I wasn't yet old enough. Now that I am older, I understand all the things I cannot do because I am, dare I say, too old.

I think about time from other perspectives as well. Where did this last school year go? Time seemed to slip away. For teachers, it represented perhaps one thirty-fifth of a working career. For students, it was more significant – a full twelfth of their basic education.

I wonder why it is that basic education takes 12 years for all but the most unusual of students. What prevents it from being completed in a shorter amount of time? In football, the hurry-up offense allows teams to execute more in two minutes than they do in any comparable time period of the game. Why can't teams play hurry-up offense all the time, and why can't this idea be applied to education – could school be completed in, say, 10 years?

I also sometimes question why schooling starts at five or six years of age in North America. In Finland, formal education begins at age seven. What do they know that others don't? After all, Finnish children seem to catch up just fine to those in North America and elsewhere.

And why do students spend around 1,000 hours in the classroom each year when a standard work year is over 2,000 hours?

These are big education questions that merit more consideration than this space allows. At NECC, SMART is taking time to ask some big questions as well. What kinds of professional development work best? How can we make education more rewarding for children with disabilities? What are the best ways to make short-term investments for long-term results? Visit SMART at NECC. Our education experts will do their best to answer your questions.

[Nancy Knowlton](#) is the CEO of SMART Technologies.



SMART Notebook Lesson Activities



Find a comprehensive database of professionally developed [K–12 lesson activities](#) on our education website. The lessons are correlated to local curriculum standards and created by classroom teachers or SMART’s team of curriculum resource developers.

Try one of the following SMART Notebook lesson activities during your next math, language arts or social studies class.

[Area of Objects](#)

Math students in grades 4–6 can find the area of various shapes using correct mathematical formulas.

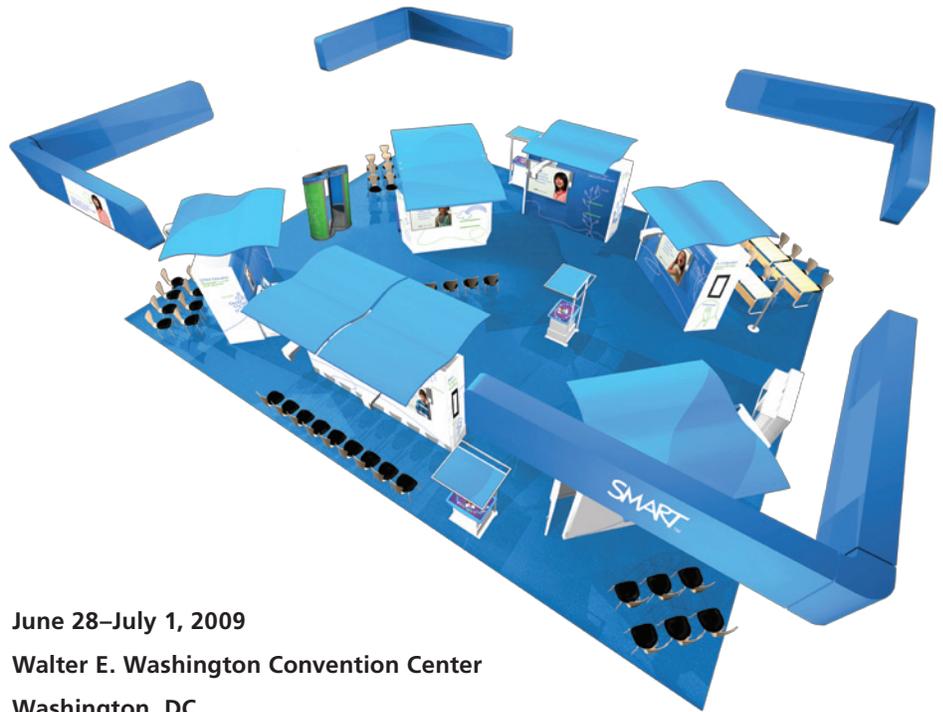
[Prepositions](#)

Sixth-grade language arts students can learn how to identify a prepositional phrase and its component parts.

[Roman Gods](#)

Seventh- and eighth-grade social studies students can explore the meaning of polytheism and monotheism, and learn about the gods and goddesses of ancient Rome.

Visit Us at NECC



June 28–July 1, 2009

Walter E. Washington Convention Center

Washington, DC

Booth 2904

Celebrating its 30th year, NECC is one of the most comprehensive educational technology events for teachers, technology coordinators, library media specialists, administrators, policymakers, industry representatives and exhibitors.

Join us again this year, at booth 2904, to learn about our newest products. Make sure to visit the SMART Interactive Classroom, to see our customizable classroom technology solution that can enhance a variety of learning environments. You can also listen to a wide range of presentations on topics that support the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), including early education, special education, STEM education, K–12 integration and professional development.

Take advantage of the SMART Room

You can also connect with us in the SMART Room, 103A. In this comfortable and casual space, listen to teachers share their best practices and find new ways of engaging your students. You’ll also have a chance to get up close and personal with SMART products and to chat with SMART staff and SMART Exemplary Educators.

You can find the full schedule of presentations, for our booth and the SMART Room, in the SMART show guide located in your conference tote. We hope you’ll join us!

SMART training event at NECC

Would you like to learn how to better use SMART Notebook software, the AirLiner™ wireless slate and SMART Response in your classroom? If you plan to be in Washington for NECC, you can also register for the full-day level 1 training event we’re holding on June 29. Registration includes a SMART Notebook learner workbook and an AirLiner wireless slate with carrying case. Space is limited, so [register today](#).

New Products and Offers Showcased at NECC



For many conference attendees, the NECC experience wouldn't be complete without seeing SMART's newest products and solutions. Here is a sample of what visitors can try out and learn about at our booth.

Be among the first to test drive the [SMART Notebook Math beta](#). It's the only interactive whiteboard software that provides the digital tools you need to create content and recognize and graph equations during your math lessons. SMART Notebook Math extends the capabilities of award-winning SMART Notebook software with a set of dynamic math-specific tools for middle and high school classes. [Sign up now](#) to download the beta – be sure to let us know what you think.

[SMART Classroom Suite](#) is now shipping. This integrated software suite transforms any computer-enabled classroom into a collaborative, interactive and highly efficient learning environment. It combines four of SMART's easy-to-use educational software applications: SMART Notebook, SMART Notebook SE (Student Edition), SMART Sync and SMART Response CE. SMART Classroom Suite helps you accelerate learning – from the creation and delivery of lessons to the engagement and assessment of your students – by using software that is specifically designed to work together.

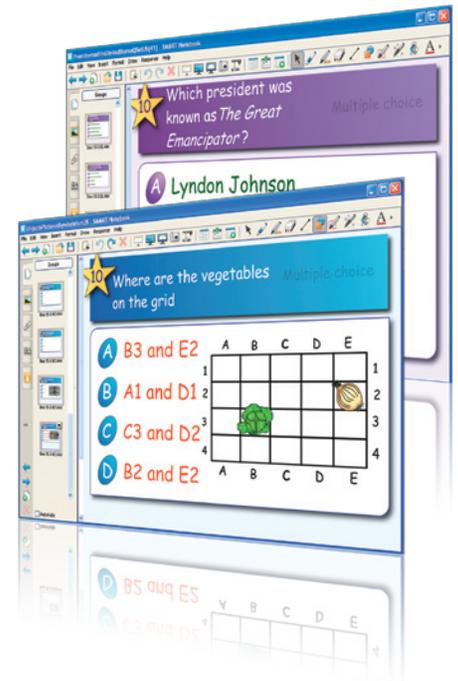
Available in the fall, [SMART Response LE](#) is the newest addition to our interactive response system family. This version is designed especially for students in early education or students with special needs. The system's handheld remotes have a range of easy-to-understand symbols, colorful buttons and a large LCD screen with graphics instead of words, so students at all reading levels will be able to answer simple questions, receive instant feedback and become more actively engaged in topics.

FEATURE ARTICLE

Investing in Engagement

Affording opportunity. Developing capacities to the fullest. Knowledge. Wisdom. Change. Future. Bronfenbrenner, a leading scholar in developmental psychology and the ecology of human development, wrote these words in 1973, but he might have been describing the current U.S. focus on education. Almost four decades later, his comments cut to the very heart of the goals of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). [Read the full article.](#)

SMART Response Question Sets



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

Try one of the following SMART Response question sets in your next math, science or social studies class.

[Objects, Pictures and Symbols](#)

K–3 math students can test their knowledge of different shapes, pictures and symbols.

[Variation 2](#)

Science students in grades 4–6 can test their knowledge of variation and its causes.

[Presidents of the United States](#)

Social studies students in grades 6–8 can test their knowledge of the presidents of the United States.

[Conversions Between Degrees and Radians](#)

Math students in grades 10–12 can test their ability to convert between radians and degrees.

SMART Table Activities



If you're using the SMART Table in your primary classroom, check out the growing number of SMART Table activities on our education website. Each activity corresponds to a SMART Notebook lesson activity and SMART Response question set. You can use SMART Table activities with small groups to complement whole-class and individual learning experiences.

Here are a few language arts, science, math and social studies activities to get you started.

[Choosing the Right Word](#)

In this language arts activity, students can pick the correct words for each sentence.

[Label a Plant](#)

In this science activity, students can learn the structure of a plant.

[Using a Ruler](#)

In this math activity, students can learn how to measure various items.

[People in the Community](#)

In this social studies activity, students collaborate as they identify different occupations, answer questions and discuss their role as students in the community.

Be Seen and Heard at NECC

When you visit us at NECC, be sure to stop by the SMART Tube. At this interactive booth, you can comment on SMART's question of the day or receive a custom photo souvenir of you and your colleagues. If you have something to say, we want to hear it!

Visit the SMART Tube during these hours:

Monday, June 29, 9:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m.

Tuesday, June 30, 9:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

Wednesday, July 1, 9:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m.



New SMART Briefing Program

If your district is considering a broad SMART adoption or has many SMART products in its classrooms, make sure that your technology team knows about the opportunity to engage more directly with SMART through our briefing program. Located in SMART's newly constructed headquarters, in Calgary, Alberta, Canada, the SMART Executive Briefing Center is a state-of-the-art demonstration and collaboration facility that shows, in a hands-on and interactive way, how SMART education solutions help teachers and administrators achieve their schools' technology goals and optimal student outcomes.

For more information on the SMART Briefing Program and how your school or district administrator can arrange a briefing, contact your SMART representative.

SMART SHOWCASE SCHOOL PROFILE

English Language Learners Excel at Culturally Diverse School



Nestled in the Shenandoah Valley region of Virginia, Rockingham is the nation's foremost turkey producing county, with many new Americans coming to the area to work for local poultry processing companies. The town of Harrisonburg, in particular, is home to a growing immigrant population, which is reflected in the student body of Pleasant Valley Elementary School (PVES). [Read the full article.](#)

Fast Facts on the 685ix



- Virtually shadow and glare free – The system's ultra-short-throw projector creates virtually no shadows or glare, making it easier for students to see what's on the interactive whiteboard
- Superior image quality – The 685ix features stunning color performance, ensuring that images are bright, crisp and easy to see from any position in the classroom
- Easily accommodated – Because the UX60 is an ultra-short-throw projector, the system takes up little floor space. Virtually any size of classroom can accommodate it.
- Widescreen – The widescreen interactive whiteboard offers you 20 percent more room to work than a standard board and is ideal for classrooms using widescreen laptops and monitors
- Centralized control – The system's extended control panel enables you to control the volume and other elements of your classroom technology from one location. And with the additional USB input, external devices like a thumb drive can be easily integrated.
- Economical – With no color decay, a long-lasting lamp and a filter-free design, the UX60 projector has a low total cost of ownership

Unparalleled Interactive Whiteboard Experience



"The SMART Board 685ix interactive whiteboard system is one of our latest innovations – it's part of SMART's ongoing commitment to create products that give our users the best experience possible. I think students and teachers will be amazed by the features," says Jarrod Thorne, product manager for the 685ix.

Because the 685ix is the world's first integrated system to combine an ultra-short-throw projector and a widescreen interactive whiteboard, you can experience interactivity like never before. The UX60 projector, which is mounted directly above the interactive whiteboard, projects images from only 12 inches (30.5 cm) away. This means you can expect high-definition, high-performance interactivity with virtually no shadows, glare or distracting projector light. And when you and your students don't have to worry about glare and shadows, you have more freedom of movement in front of the interactive whiteboard and can focus on learning and teaching, not technology.

The 685ix features a large, clear and vibrant image, which holds the attention of students from every corner of the room. Plus, the system's widescreen interactive whiteboard offers you 20 percent more workspace than a standard board and is ideal for classrooms using widescreen laptops and monitors.

From the extended control panel, you can control up to five different audiovisual devices and quickly move from one learning resource to another. As well, the switchable dual-USB port enables you to connect two computers to the SMART Board interactive whiteboard and easily switch between them as required. And with SMART Notebook software, you have all the tools you need to create and deliver engaging, interactive lessons across grade levels, subjects and learning styles. With the 685ix in your classroom, you can expect an unparalleled interactive experience.

More Options

There's a SMART Board interactive whiteboard for every classroom configuration and budget. With a best-in-class five-year warranty, comprehensive teaching and learning resources, and award-winning SMART Notebook software, you can rest assured you're getting products that offer unmatched ease of use and state-of-the-art performance.

SMART Board 600

Dependable and intuitive, the SMART Board 600 series brings interactivity into your classroom. And with SMART's Touch Recognition feature, you can switch automatically between writing with a pen, moving objects with your finger and erasing with your palm. You'll find the SMART Board 600 series adapts to your instruction and content and to your students' learning needs and styles.

SMART Board 600i

Experience the power of integration with the SMART Board 600i interactive whiteboard system. This integrated system combines a short-throw projector, an interactive whiteboard and an extended control panel, delivering a first-class walk-up-and-use experience. Easy installation and low maintenance costs make the 600i a cost-effective option for your classroom.

SMART Board 685ix

With the SMART Board 685ix interactive whiteboard system, expect high-definition visuals and high-performance interactivity. Its ultra-short-throw projector virtually eliminates shadows and glare while offering you stunning image quality. With a widescreen interactive whiteboard and extended control panel, your experience using the 685ix will be unparalleled.

No matter your choice, when you use a SMART Board interactive whiteboard, you have access to comprehensive professional development, resources and support – everything you need to make teaching and learning in your classroom extraordinary.



Teacher Talk

We showed some teachers the 685ix and let them take it for a test drive. Here's a sampling of what they had to say:

As a speech language pathologist, I try to help build supportive classroom communities where everybody is welcome, everywhere, all of the time. Features such as minimal shadowing, improved portability and direct USB access will not only ensure more time on task but will also promote inclusion and meaningful educational and social participation for students with special skills. This product helps us overcome access barriers and creates what many considered impossible, possible for ALL students.

Alexandra Dunn

Speech Language Pathologist
Upper Canada District School Board
Oxford Mills, Ontario, Canada

The SMART Board 685ix is a stunning new product that will make interactive classroom technology even richer. With features like HD and the widescreen format, it will also work years into the future. Teachers can expect state-of-the-art image quality and a user experience that is unprecedented – there is virtually no glare, no shadow and no light in the presenter's eyes. The teachers I work with will love the improved ease of use.

Brenda Sherry

Itinerant Technology Teacher
Upper Grand School District
Guelph, Ontario, Canada

Up Next

Watch for a short update issue over the summer to keep you informed about what's going on at SMART. You'll receive the regular six-page, back-to-school issue in August.



Stay on Top of the Latest Educational Technology News



Discover a place to preview the best educational technology to help students and teachers excel. Subscribe to *Interactive Administrator*, SMART's new quarterly newsletter dedicated to the needs of education administrators.

Find the latest information on technology trends and best practices in technology implementation and use. Every issue includes the following:

- A district case study
- Recent research on educational technology
- Articles on interoperability and implementation
- Reflections and insights from our CEO, Nancy Knowlton
- News and the latest innovations from SMART

Stay on top of the latest educational technology news and research. Register now to receive your free quarterly subscription to *Interactive Administrator*. To learn more, visit www.smarttech.com/interactiveadministrator.



SMART's Global Community of Educators

For over 20 years, we've been passionate about technology-enabled learning. We've turned this passion into the SMART Exchange, a global community of teachers, administrators and SMART experts.

The SMART Exchange is the world's largest community of SMART product users, with over 55,000 members in 13 countries and 150 new people signing up every day. And with over 7,000 posts in our community forums, our members have a lot to say.

Share your stories, ideas and insights with other enthusiastic educators. You can also find a variety of useful information, including recent research, best practices and more than 1,500 user-created lesson activities.

Connect, create and innovate – it's all possible on the SMART Exchange. Registration is quick, easy and free. Visit exchange.smarttech.com.

