

BUYER'S **guide**

Ever conduct a class discussion dominated by a handful of vocal students? Did you wonder if the quiet ones in the back were paying attention or were too intimidated to participate?

Wireless student response systems (SRS) solve this problem by giving each student his or her own handheld “clicker,” or personal response pad. Without fear of the spotlight, students can use their clickers to simultaneously weigh in on discussions, answer paperless quiz questions, or ask for help. Each clicker sends the student’s response via either radio frequency (RF) or infrared (IR) signal to a base receiver that’s connected to the classroom computer, which records and analyzes the answers and/or displays them in a graph on an overhead projector. Like your TV remote, IR technology requires “line-of-sight” connectivity without interference and usually accommodates a range of 50–100 feet, whereas RF signals can reach the receiver from anywhere within a 200–300-foot radius, regardless of obstructions. IR receivers also tend to be bulky compared to USB-based RF receivers, which are about the size of a flash drive.

Basic clickers have 4–12-key keypads to answer multiple choice and true/false questions. More advanced models feature full alphanumeric keypads, LED display screens, touchscreens, or pen-and-tablet interfaces that enable students to draw or handwrite responses.

You can also use an SRS to conduct roll call, paperless quizzes, opinion polls, and interactive games. And, although we have included only systems with dedicated clickers in this article, the latest generation of SRS works with applications that turn students’ smartphones into clickers.

A bundled system includes a receiver, your designated number of clickers, an instructor remote, and software that records and displays responses in various formats. Most systems integrate with Microsoft PowerPoint, and some can import and export Word, Excel, and Outlook files or work with classroom management systems. Many companies also offer proprietary software with classroom content that’s aligned with state standards.

Prices of complete systems vary widely depending on features, from \$1,000 to \$6,000. Here we present only systems under \$2,300.

Student Response Systems

Brand	Model	Size	Price*
eBeam www.e-beam.com	 Respond RF	3.3" L 8.38 cm	\$1,620
iRespond www.iRespond.com	 UltraLite	2 × 3" 5.08 × 7.62 cm	\$1,065
	 Lite	3 × 6" 7.62 × 15.24 cm	\$2,100
QOMO HiteVision www.qomo.com	 QClick QRF300	4.13 × 1.94 × 0.63" 10.48 × 4.92 × 1.59 cm	\$1,495
	 QClick QRF600	5.13 × 2.06 × 0.75" 13.02 × 5.24 × 1.91 cm	\$1,995
Qwizdom www.qwizdom.com	 Q2	4.33 × 2.05 × 0.63" 11 × 5.2 × 1.6 cm	\$1,895
	 Q4	4.92 × 2.17 × 1.18" 12.5 × 5.5 × 3 cm	\$2,295
Reply Systems www.replysystems.com	 Mini	3 × 1.5 × 0.4" 7.62 × 3.81 × 1.02 cm	\$1,995
Turning Technologies www.turningtechnologies.com	 ResponseCard IR	3.3 × 2.1 × 0.3" 8.38 × 5.33 × 0.76 cm	\$895
	 ResponseCard RF	3.3 × 2.1 × 0.3" 7.62 × 5.33 × 0.76 cm	\$1,483

* PRICE OF COMPLETE SYSTEM WITH BASE, SOFTWARE, AND 32 CLICKERS

Keypad/Display	Signal Type & Range	Software Compatability	Learning Modes	Special Features
12-key keypad (A–J/0–9) + “Go” and “?”	2-way 2.4GHz radio frequency 400’/121.92 m	eBeam Interact & Projection, TurningPoint; interface with MS PowerPoint & Word; XML	Report Wizard; multimedia test questions with images, sounds, video	Speed scoring, lightweight
5-key keypad (A–E/1–5)	2-way 2.4GHz radio frequency 250’/76.2 m	iRespond; interface with MS PowerPoint & Word, gradebooks, classroom management systems	Multiple choice, true/false, instructor-paced, questions on the fly, charts/graphs	Real-time results by standard, real-time feedback, session playback, instant grading, teacher’s dashboard & remote
17-key keypad (A–E/0–9) + 5 function and 4 direction keys; 2-line, 8-character display	2-way 2.4GHz radio frequency 250’/76.2 m	iRespond; interface with MS PowerPoint & Word, gradebooks, classroom management systems	Numeric, fill-in-the-blank, multiple choice, multiple response, true/false, instructor- & student-paced, homework collection, questions on the fly, charts/graphs, messages	Real-time results by standard, real-time feedback, flag questions for review, session playback, instant grading, teacher’s dashboard & remote
6-key keypad (A–F) + hand-raise	2-way 2.4GHz radio frequency 300’/91.44 m	QClick; interface with MS PowerPoint, Excel, XML	Multiple choice, normal & rush quiz, roll call, elimination, vote, grade, ad-lib, grouping	Clicker contoured to fit in hand, lightweight, power-save mode
21-key keypad; 6-line LCD screen	2-way 2.4GHz radio frequency 300’/91.44 m	QClick; interface with MS PowerPoint, Excel, XML	Multiple choice, normal & rush quiz, ad-lib quiz, standard exam, homework, elimination, grading, vote, roll call	Clicker contoured to fit in hand, lightweight, power-save mode
12-key keypad + 4 function keys; 3-line E-Ink display	2-way 2.4GHz radio frequency 984.25’/300 m	Qwizdom Connect, Interact Live Editor; interface with MS PowerPoint	Multiple choice, single-digit numeric, yes/no, true/false, rating scale	Private help option, energy-saving display, instant feedback
15-key keypad + 4 function keys; 3-line LCD display	2-way 2.4GHz radio frequency 984.25’/300 m	Qwizdom Connect, Interact Live Editor; interface with MS PowerPoint	Multiple mark, numeric, sequencing, rating scale, yes/no, fractional/decimal, multiple choice, true/false, help	Private help option, instant feedback
5-key keypad (A–E/1–5)	2-way 2.4GHz radio frequency 300’/91.44 m	Reply; interface with MS PowerPoint	Multiple choice, delegate voting, group, game show	Frequency hopping for signal security
12-key keypad (A–J/0–9) + “Go” and “?”; LED light	Infrared 90’/27.43 m	TurningPoint, VantagePoint, QuestionPoint, ResponseWare; interface with MS Office Suite, Blackboard	Multiple choice, electronic testing, formative assessments, surveys, opinion polls, games	ResponseWare available as app for iPhone & iPod, programmable & fixed ID modes, deep sleep mode
12-key keypad (A–J/0–9) + “Go” and “?”; LED light	2-way 2.4GHz radio frequency 200’/60.96 m	TurningPoint, VantagePoint, QuestionPoint; interface with MS Office Suite, Blackboard	Multiple choice, electronic testing, formative assessments, surveys, opinion polls, games	ResponseWare available as app for iPhone & iPod, deep sleep mode