

## Reach for the STaRs



A free assessment tool is available on ISTE's Web site. The CEO Forum's Interactive School Technology and Readiness (STaR) Chart is

a self-assessment tool designed to provide schools with the information they need to better integrate technology into their educational process. You can complete an online, multiple-choice questionnaire that will provide instant feedback on how well your school is doing. Find the chart at <http://www.iste.org/starchart/>.

The STaR Chart identifies and defines four school profiles, ranging from the "Early Tech" school with little or no technology to the "Target Tech" school that provides a model for the integration and innovative use of education technology. The chart is intended to serve as a benchmark against which every school can assess and track its own progress.

The STaR Chart can help any institution answer three critical questions:

1. Is your school using technology effectively to ensure the best possible teaching and learning?
2. What is your school's current education technology profile?
3. What areas should your school focus on to improve its level of technology integration?

The STaR Chart is being used to help schools in the following ways:

- *Setting benchmarks and goals.* Schools, districts, and states have used the Chart to identify current education technology profiles, establish goals, and monitor progress.
- *Applying for grants.* The Chart has helped schools and districts identify their education technology needs as they apply for grants.
- *Determining funding priorities.* Education administrators and policymakers have used the Chart to determine where to allocate funds.
- *Creating individualized assessment tools.* Education administrators and policymakers have used the Chart as the basis for statewide technology assessments.

The STaR Chart is a grid-based assessment tool. The header reads "CEO Forum School Technology Readiness (STaR) Chart:". Below this, there are two main columns: "Educational Benefits" and "Hardware & Connectivity". Each column contains several rows of assessment items, each with a corresponding score or status indicator.

The STaR Chart allows schools to track progress in educational technology readiness.

## Annual Report Available

If you didn't get a copy of ISTE's 2005–06 Annual Report at NECC 2006, it's not



too late. In it, you'll find details of major initiatives, advocacy efforts, and a snapshot of ISTE's revenue sources. Visit [http://www.iste.org/Content/NavigationMenu/About\\_ISTE/Annual\\_Reports/ISTE-2005-2006-Annual-Report.pdf](http://www.iste.org/Content/NavigationMenu/About_ISTE/Annual_Reports/ISTE-2005-2006-Annual-Report.pdf) to view or download a copy.

## ISTE Affiliates Gather in Australia

ISTE is helping to bring the broader ISTE community to Cairns, North Queensland, Australia, this month. The Australian Computers in Education Conference (ACEC, October 2–4, 2006) will focus on a number of themes, including Research in Information and Communication Technology in education, ICT innovation, and ICT as integral to learning and curriculum reform. ACEC is the biannual conference of ISTE's Australian and New Zealand Affiliates. The Queensland Society for Information Technology in Education (QSITE), an ACEC and ISTE Affiliate, is the local host. Estimated conference attendance is 1,200–1,500 educators.

ISTE is bringing a contingent of ambassadors to the conference composed of executive and program staff, board

*News continues on page 47.*

News continued from page 7.

members, and individual members. L&L's own Acquisitions Editor, Anita McAnear, will be there. "I'm going in search of article ideas and potential authors to increase the number of international projects, ideas, and voices represented within the pages of L&L," said McAnear.

ISTE is co-sponsoring the International Reception, along with an Affiliates' meeting. The Affiliate meeting will be a venue in which to share ideas about managing professional associations and sharing expertise. ACEC wants to emphasize learning from and sharing what Pacific Rim Affiliates are doing.

ISTE invited its Canadian and Jamaican Affiliates to present in a special ISTE ICT in Education strand to share



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best practices. ISTE's ICT strand encouraged submission proposals to address one of the following topics:

- How ICT is used in distance learning pedagogy
- How e-learning is used in school reform practice and the pedagogical implications
- How ICT addresses the needs of non-urban and rural populations with examples of genuine transformation.

For more information about the conference, visit <http://www.acec2006.info/>.

## T+L Conference Coming Up

Join ISTE presenters and more than 2,000 school district leaders at the National School Boards Association's 20th annual Teaching + Learning Conference in Dallas November 8-10.

T+L explores how new technology tools are used effectively in classrooms, administrative applications, parental engagement and community outreach to improve student achievement. Keynote speakers include Ray Kurzweil, a visionary technologist and educator, Clyde Prestowitz, a noted expert on global change and economic policy, and Professor James Paul Gee.

Visit the ISTE booth (#709) and

check out ISTE's newest titles at the T+L bookstore. Signup for the NETS Refresh Forum scheduled for November 7. The forum is an opportunity for educators to come together in a town hall meeting atmosphere to provide input on ISTE standards.

The conference's popular Education Excellence Fair highlights successful integration of technology-based tools and resources. A total of 40 school districts and agencies present case studies of curriculum, administrative and community outreach applications.

For more information, visit <http://www.nsba.org/t+l/>. ■



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to this  
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Conference!

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