



What is HELP?

The HELP Team (Hurricane Education Leadership Project) is a consortium of businesses, associations and non-profit entities established in late 2005 following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The HELP Team is focused on rebuilding or renewing learning environments for the 21st century by providing support, strategic guidance and vision for K-12 schools, school systems, educators and education leaders (including elected officials) impacted by recent hurricanes on the Gulf Coast.

21st Century Learning Environments

The world is complex and continually changing. It is a world driven by new ideas, knowledge, and technology. It is made up of different people, cultures, and perspectives. If we are to rise to the challenges and opportunities in this new global age, it means embracing a new vision for teaching and learning that incorporates strategies to develop digital literacy, creativity, higher-order thinking, communication and collaboration.

In a 21st century learning environment all students are able to learn, instruction is engaging, interactive, contextual in the real world, student centered and differentiated for individual learners needs; 21st century tools and technologies are integrated into the learning process; systems (technological and otherwise) are student and learning focused; and personnel engage in continuous professional growth to maintain their skills and knowledge.

How we can HELP your School

The HELP Team offers guidance and consulting for schools rebuilding and remodeling to incorporate strategies to develop digital literacy, creativity, higher-order thinking, communication and collaboration. The HELP team is comprised of teams focused on supporting school districts in the following areas:

- **Advocacy/Funding** — Provides leadership in the area of keeping the challenges and successes of Gulf Coast schools in front of elected officials at the local, state and federal levels. The team also shares expertise in identifying and applying for a variety of funding resources in support of growing the effective use of technology in this region's schools.
- **Infrastructure and Information Technology** — Works with state and local government officials to create exemplars and a blueprint model schools for replication. Additional focus includes defining various 21st century learning scenarios and consulting on best practices.

- **Instructional/Professional Development/ 21st Century Schools** — Provides guidance on best practices, options and alternatives for distance learning; sustainable professional development; guidance for educational institutions on gap analysis; assessment of students and teachers and integration of curriculum and technology. The primary focus of this group is on giving students the skills to be a productive citizen in a 21st century environment.
- **Marketing and Public Relations** — Promotes national visibility of the HELP Team and continued efforts supporting the students and schools along the Gulf Coast.
- **Pandemic and Disaster Preparedness** — Assists schools with emergency preparedness in the event of a pandemic or other disaster. The team works collaboratively to develop resources and a guide for K-12 schools to prepare for emergencies, such as a pandemic flu, and develop a framework for mitigating risks, responding, enabling continuity of learning and recovering.

Additional resources and information can be found on the Web site at:
www.educationhelpteam.org

HELP Team Members

Original Equipment Manufacturers

- Apple
- Dell
- Detel
- Gateway
- Lenovo
- Toshiba

Recovery Team

- American Locker Security Systems, Inc.
- Carnegie Learning
- Catapult Online
- CCR Pyramid, Inc.
- DyKnow
- eInstruction
- Elluminate
- E-rate Elite Services, Inc.
- Florida Virtual School
- Funds For Learning, LLC
- Futurekids
- Georgia Tech Research Institute
- Dr. Mike Hall
- Ignite Learning
- Impact Education
- Intel
- Key2 Ed
- LearnStar, Inc.
- McGraw-Hill
- Michigan Freedom to Learn Program
- Microsoft

- Pearson Education
- Pitsco
- Polycorn
- Princeton Review
- Responsive Learning
- Rising Books
- Riverdeep
- SAS Institute
- Scantron Testing and Assessment
- Scholastic
- SchoolNet
- SMART Technologies, Inc.
- TANDBERG
- Technical Systems Integrators, LLC
- Thinkronize
- Trillion
- Tutor.com
- Youth Venture and Ashoka's Youth Initiative
- Dr. Sally Ann Zoll

Organizations

- Consortium for School Networking (CoSN)
- International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE)
- North American Council for Online Learning (NACOL)
- National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)

- National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE)
- National School Boards Association (NSBA)
- State Educational Technology Directors Association (SETDA)
- Software And Information Industry Association (SIIA)

Education Press

- Center for Digital Government and Education
- eSchool News Network
- Technology & Learning Magazine

Foundations

- Baton Rouge Area Foundation
- BellSouth Foundation
- Cable in the Classroom
- George Lucas Educational Foundation
- Pearson Foundation
- Tiger Woods Foundation
- Tiger Woods Learning Center

Corporate Partners

- Embarq Corporation
- Symantec
- Xerox



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