

PRESS RELEASE

Highest-ranking School Districts Honored for Technology Innovation Know-How

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – October 23, 2008 – The Center for Digital Education, the National School Boards Association and *Converge Online* magazine announced the winners of the nation's fifth annual Digital School Districts Survey. The purpose of the survey is to showcase exemplary school boards and districts' use of technology to govern the district, communicate with students, parents and the community and to improve district operations.

All U.S. public school boards/districts were invited to participate in the survey. Schools were placed in three categories based on size of enrollment. Winners reflected those school districts with the fullest implementation of technology standards in the evolution of digital education.

The first-place winners in each of the three categories were:

- Briarcliff Manor Union Free School District, N.Y. (Less than 2,500 students)
- Andover Public Schools, Kan. / Henry County Schools, Va. – tied (2,501 – 15,000 students)
- Cherokee County School District, Ga. (More than 15,000 students)

To view the full list of winners, visit <http://www.centerdigitaled.com/>.

Marina Leight, vice president of the Center for Digital Education, said, "The survey responses show that school districts across the nation are doing an outstanding job of using technology to increase communication with their students, parents and the community. In addition to their Web sites, they are also using newer technologies such as wireless notifications, blogs and grade portals. We applaud their progress and successes!"

"School boards must move with the times, as technology grows and changes," said Anne L. Bryant, executive director for the National School Boards Association. "Especially in these difficult economic times, it is essential for school districts to come up with creative and innovative ways to use technology. NSBA salutes this year's top Digital School Boards for taking the lead and setting the bar for school districts around the country."

The Center thanks SMART Technologies for underwriting the 2008 Digital School Districts Survey and for supporting our nation's schools. "As technology continues to evolve, there is an increasing need for school districts to adopt new ways of teaching and learning in 21st century classroom environments," says Nancy Knowlton, SMART's CEO. "We extend our congratulations to the first-place winners in each of the three categories and all other recognized districts announced in the fifth annual Digital School Districts Survey, for leading the way in the evolution of digital education."

The Center for Digital Education is a national research and advisory institute providing education and industry leaders with decision support, research and educational services to help them effectively incorporate new technologies in the 21st century. In addition to the Digital School Districts Survey, the Center conducts Digital Community College, Cities, Counties and States Surveys – all national studies that serve as benchmarks for excellence in IT applications and initiatives. For more information on the Center visit www.centerdigitaled.com

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