

Ysleta ISD's Guide to Safe and Smart Searching

How to make the Internet a daily instructional and learning resource!

"Our teachers and students embraced netTrekker d.i. with enthusiasm! Once they discover how easy it is to use and all the valuable resources they can access, they are sold!"

– Hector Montenegro, Superintendent, Ysleta ISD

In today's classroom, every child is using the Internet to learn. The World Wide Web provides a wealth of exciting educational resources that can greatly enhance the curricula and energize teaching and learning.

Ysleta Independent School District is located on the Texas/Mexico border and serves over 46,000 students, 90% of whom are Hispanic. Many would not expect this southwest urban district to be a leader in technology integration, but they are. Head and shoulders above their peers, this district is a stellar example of how to successfully utilize the Internet in the classroom and daily curricula, in a safe and productive manner.

Safety First for Students

Ysleta ISD prides itself on providing a high quality, technology-supported education to its diverse student population and naturally, this environment includes the Internet. But, as district leaders knew, allowing students direct access to the Internet without supervision can equal disaster. Danger lurks in the form of sites with misleading, incorrect or even harmful information, and there are also predators and pornography. In addition, using general search tools often returns thousands of results, most of which are off topic or inappropriate, and the sheer number can overwhelm students. That's why Ysleta chose netTrekker d.i., a search engine specifically designed for education. netTrekker d.i. delivers over 180,000 educator-selected online resources that support the complete K-12 curricula to every child's desktop, so Ysleta students receive safe, targeted and appropriate websites every time they search. When asked why netTrekker d.i. is important to her, a Ysleta teacher commented "I don't have to spend my time watching students so they're not accessing inappropriate sites. I can keep the focus on teaching instead."

A student's response to netTrekker d.i.,

"This is SO cool!"

A Timesaver for Busy Teachers and School Librarians

Hector Montenegro, the Superintendent of Ysleta, is a proponent of using online resources in the district's core content areas. But, as in many busy districts, Ysleta teachers struggled to find the time to search the Internet for, and maintain, resources that would support each curricular area. The task seemed daunting. This important district initiative was another reason Mr. Montenegro championed the purchase of netTrekker d.i.



Knowing his staff already had full plates, Mr. Montenegro took the initiative to find a solution that was easy to use and would provide access to quality online resources, including lesson plans and learning exercises that aligned with the TEKS and TAKS, for his staff. netTrekker d.i. exceeded his expectations. Not only could his educators access well-vetted resources, but they could also search the extensive netTrekker d.i. database by readability measure to find grade level content at appropriate reading levels for every student. Also, an ELL area in netTrekker d.i. was a perfect fit for Ysleta's 90% Hispanic student population. Bilingual teachers were thrilled to be able to search for Spanish sites and then have students utilize a dictionary hotkey to find the definition or translation for any word on a website. netTrekker d.i. has helped save Ysleta educators' countless hours this past year!

Teachers' comment,

"netTrekker d.i. - Best Resource of 2005!"

Successful Implementation Equals Outstanding Results

With a strong commitment to technology, Hector Montenegro fully backed the training and time needed to successfully implement netTrekker d.i. across his 60 campuses and is now seeing the fruits of his team's labor. During the 2004-05 school year, Ysleta was the number one netTrekker user with over 2.5 million page views, doubling the usage of districts with student populations four times their size! Using netTrekker d.i., the district has enriched its curriculum, strengthened its goal of providing a technology-enriched education and enjoyed increased teacher and student productivity. ^{BP}



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