

[Horizon Report: 2008](#)

Describes the continuing work of the New Media Consortium (NMC)'s five-year qualitative research effort that seeks to identify and describe emerging technologies likely to have a large impact on teaching, learning, or creative expression within learning-focused organizations. The main sections of the report describe six emerging technologies or practices that will likely enter mainstream use in learning-focused organizations within three adoption horizons over the next one to five years.

[Studies Validate Project-Based Learning](#)

A growing body of academic research supports the use of project-based learning in schools as a way to engage students, cut absenteeism, boost cooperative learning skills, and improve test scores. Those benefits are enhanced when technology is used in a meaningful way in the projects. Read more about PBL results in the following five case studies.

[Service-Learning and Community Service in K-12 Public Schools](#)

Service-learning, discussed here in terms of incorporating community service experiences into students' school work, has long been viewed as a positive education reform option. Beginning in the 1970s, educators began paying more attention to this teaching option and the 1990s saw an array of initiatives to help promote the practice. To determine how extensive the practice is, NCES conducted the first national-level study of service-learning in America's K-12 public schools in the spring of 1999. Analysis of this study reveals a number of interesting results including the fact that roughly one-third of these schools have incorporated service-learning to some extent and that most of the schools that have service-learning provide teachers some sort of support to help them integrate service into their curriculum.

Character Education

Character can encompass such moral and ethical values as respect, fairness, and caring—as well as responsibility, trustworthiness, and citizenship. And it can refer to the demonstration of these values in behavior, reasoning, and emotions. Some character education programs integrate activities in social studies, English, and math. Some create communities of students, teachers, and parents to foster respect and caring. And some use in-class stories, games, songs, and activity books to encourage the acceptance of other cultures. This report reviewed 93 studies of 41 programs to determine the qualifications to be included in this report.

Teacher Professional Development – Best Practices

Professional Community and Professional Development in the Learning-Centered School, by Judith Warren Little, offers a strategic overview of best practices at the school level in professional development. It suggests that teacher learning should be supported by professional communities within the school that are systematically connected to external professional development opportunities.

Theories of Learning and Teaching: What Do They Mean for Educators, by Suzanne M. Wilson and Penelope L. Peterson (2006), details nine concepts of learning, knowledge, and teaching that have formed the basis for recent education reform.

The Workplace Matters: Teacher Quality, Retention, and Effectiveness, by Susan Moore Johnson (2006), describes workplace conditions that support effective instruction and professional growth according to recent research.

Teaching for Understanding: A Guide to Video Resources, by Judith W. Segal, Elizabeth J. Demarest, and Andrea I. Prejean (2006), describes and illustrates recent videos portraying teaching practices that are consistent with the most recent research on learning and teaching and with professional standards.