

A newsletter for the K-12 educator.



EDUCATION SERVICES

The latest in free digital tools, programs, and resources from PBS and Prairie Public Education Services.

Winter 2016



Brand-new on LearningMedia:

Your students can discover the world's greatest explorers.

Some sailed across the Atlantic, others rocketed to the moon.

Learn more about the lives and journeys of history's greatest explorers - from Alan Shepard to Marco Polo - with "PBS World Explorers," a new collection of videos, lesson plans, and standards-aligned content.

Find it at PBS LearningMedia.org.

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K-12 tech developments to watch in 2016



From *Education Dive*

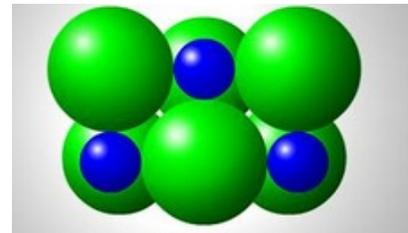
1. Student privacy concerns soar. With a reported one-third of all US students using school-issued tech devices in the classroom, student privacy seriously is a growing trend at a national legislative level. Now 25 states - including North Dakota - have passed legislation modeled on protection of student information.

2. Computer science, coding becoming ingrained in general curricula. For years, computer science and coding were weak points for US students. That trend is shifting, with events like the Hour of Code making computer science more familiar in classrooms.

3. Ed tech companies play larger role in school's tech selection. With all the new devices, platforms, software, and online offerings out there, it is difficult for districts to choose the best fit. A new online marketplace called [Noodle Markets](#) has formed to become a "one-stop source" of information about the vast array of paid and free educational tools.

4. More commonplace electronic tracking of performance, accountability. Now that the Every Student Succeeds Act has redirected power over accountability back to individual states, states like Kansas have created electronic portals to bring tracking data for schools, students and teachers together in one easy interface for public use.

Read the entire article [HERE](#).



AND NOW FOR THE BIG 3:

PBS LearningMedia shares its three most popular lessons from 2015.

Drum roll please.

PBS LearningMedia has introduced its three most popular collections of video and other teaching resources from the last year. Check them out below to see why so many teachers used them:

1. **It's ALIVE!** In the lesson plan "Living and Non-Living," students K-2 and 3-5 learn about the characteristics that distinguish living from nonliving things. View [HERE](#).
2. **The ups and downs of energy.** This interactive rollercoaster ride illustrates the relationship between potential and kinetic energy. View [HERE](#).
3. **Ion the prize.** This interactive activity discusses ionic bonding - a type of chemical bond formed between two ions with opposite charges. View [HERE](#).

Find more videos, lesson plans, and digital tools at www.pbslearningmedia.org

New learning materials, programs from PBS ...



**For grades 2-5:
RUFF RUFFMAN: Kids
can help prevent
distracted driving**

In this text-and-go society, it's never too early to teach kids about the dangers of distracted driving. The creators of **Ruff Ruffman: Humble Media Genius** have launched the "Game Over" website, which empowers kids to help discourage multi-tasking drivers. It includes the interactive game "[Eyes on the Road](#)," a [video](#), a [song](#), a quiz, and other helpful info for parents.

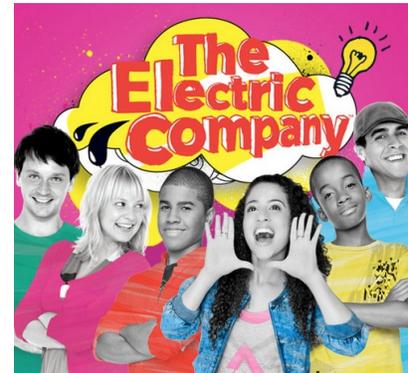
Website



**For age 3-grade 3:
NATURE CAT helps kids
explore great outdoors**

Young learners who love science will want to check out the new PBS KIDS show, **Nature Cat**, in which a housecat-turned-adventurer and his friends embark on exciting and educational backyard excursions. Along the way, kids are encouraged to do the same. The one-hour special premieres at 7 am and 3 pm Jan. 18 on the PBS main channel.

Website



**For grades K-3:
ELECTRIC
COMPANY adds new
ELL tools**

The Electric Company introduces new language materials that engage and entertain children ages 5-9 while teaching them the four areas of literacy that might challenge struggling readers: decoding, vocabulary, comprehension of connected text, and reading motivation. Full episodes, clips, games, and activities are available via PBS LearningMedia.

Tools

Professional Development & Webinars

Attention tech-savvy teachers:



Become a PBS Digital Media Innovator

There's still time to submit your entry for the **2016 PBS LearningMedia Digital Innovators** program, which recognizes K-12 educators nationwide who serve as leaders in educational technology.

One educator will be chosen from each state to receive:

- **An all-expense-paid trip** to Denver, Colo., to participate in the PBS LearningMedia Digital Innovators Summit and the prestigious ISTE Conference next June
- **A Samsung Galaxy tablet**
- **A yearlong PD opportunity** to connect with a robust nationwide network of tech-minded peers

The deadline is **Feb. 8** so apply now by **clicking [HERE](#)**.



Save June 21-22; you won't regret it.
Get PD credit, learn about tech tools
through our
Teacher Training Institute

Need PD? Wondering how you can use technology more effectively in your classroom?

We can help. The Prairie Region Teacher Training Institute is a high-quality, highly affordable workshop featuring respected speakers, engaging break-out sessions, hands-on learning, and helpful info on how to use digital media to teach the

modern K-12 learner.

So save this date and keep an eye out for more details soon:
Prairie Region Teacher Training Institute
June 21-22

Minnesota State University Moorhead

A last-minute reminder: Learn how 'Every Student Succeeds Act' will impact N.D. students and schools.

The North Dakota Department of Public Instruction is sponsoring a WebEx training on the newly reauthorized federal law Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) on Friday, January 8 from 10:45-11:30 am.

Registration will close at noon Thursday, January 7.

Don't miss this opportunity to hear about how the new federal law will impact North Dakota schools, including information regarding the transition process.

REGISTER

Free webinar offers resources on civil rights.

Join a timely conversation that helps students connect the civil rights movement of the '60s with what is happening now in cities like Ferguson, Chicago, and Cleveland.

Register for the free "Eyes on the Prize" webinar on Wednesday, January 13 at 6 pm to learn more about *Eyes on the Prize*, an award-winning series on the civil rights movement, and its relevance in middle and high school classrooms today.

All 14 episodes of "Eyes on the Prize" will be broadcast on the Prairie Public WORLD channel starting January 17 at 7 pm.



REGISTER

At a glance:



Catch our **BLUE** van - if you can!

Last year, the Education Services team logged 22,000 miles bringing literacy events, trainings, and PBS resources to people across North Dakota and northwestern Minnesota.

This year, we're also on the move.

If you see our blue van - decorated with some of PBS KIDS' most beloved characters - mention

#catchthebigbluevan and **@PrairiePublicED** on Twitter or join our **Instagram** then post a van pic to our page (remember to include #catchthebigbluevan). In return, **we'll enter you in a drawing for a \$25 gift card!**



Let's keep in touch!

Update your email to get the scoop on our best and brightest resources and events.

Many North Dakota educators have been required to switch their email from the old "Sendit" address to the "k12.nd.us" one.

If you have changed your address, simply click on the link below to update your address on our newsletter list. We don't want you

to miss out on our latest info on PBS teaching tools, trends in education, and chances to win free resources in the classroom!

UPDATE MY EMAIL

[Website](#) [Events](#) [Contact](#)

JOIN OUR
MAILING LIST

FORWARD TO
A FRIEND

