

Jan 9, 2009: Round Rock ISD educators are pleased to announce the implementation of a pilot program using more than 125 TeacherMate handheld computers in five first grade campuses. Round Rock ISD was selected as the first pilot site by E3 Alliance, a collaboration of educational institutions in Central Texas whose mission is to improve educational outcomes in the region. The TeacherMate hand-held computer system is a product of Innovations for Learning, a Chicago nonprofit organization.

The TeacherMate handheld computer is a mobile learning tool that has been designed specifically for early elementary students. The TeacherMate system enables teachers to differentiate instruction and to engage all students. Students are attracted to its resemblance to a handheld game, and they quickly learn to use the few buttons necessary to control the interface. The handheld is rugged enough to withstand the treatment of young students, yet is light and safe, with rounded edges and extra protection over the screen. The TeacherMate system includes beginning reading and math programs and has Spanish language support.

The Reading Program covers the components of beginning reading instruction, including activities for phonics, fluency, and comprehension. The TeacherMate can save student's voice recordings for later review by the teacher. The Reading Program is aligned to the district's adopted textbook for students in kindergarten – 3rd grade. All stories in the TeacherMate system are in both English and Spanish. The Math Program contains activities for math facts as well as many early elementary math concepts, including measurement, fractions, telling time, geometric shapes, and coins.

Participating teachers will use the system's Classroom Management Program to support differentiated instruction for various reading and math groups or for individual students including on-level instruction, advancement or remediation.



In cooperation with researchers from Stanford University's School of Education, Round Rock ISD will evaluate the effectiveness of the TeacherMate system on student achievement through classroom observations, interviews, and assessments to share with regional partner districts following spring semester 2009.

The TeacherMate System has been created by Innovations for Learning, A Chicago-based nonprofit that has developed the system with leading reading and math educators over a 15-year period. The TeacherMate System is in use in over 200 schools in Chicago, as well as schools across the country and in Mexico. The Round Rock ISD pilot is the first of its kind in the state of Texas.

Contact: Suzanne Burke, Curriculum Director, Suzanne_Burke@roundrockisd.org