

## Florida Department of Education launches iTunes U Web site

The Florida Web site has instruction ideas, resources for teachers.

BY Mary Kelli Palka  
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The Florida Department of Education announced last week its own iTunes U Web site as a place where students, parents and school officials can go to find state and local education information.

### **Where does the material come from?**

The state has partnered with various agencies, including the Florida Virtual School, several school districts, the Florida Memory Project and Florida Humanities Council. School districts review content before sending it to the state. Additional state agencies and districts are expected to participate in the future.

### **What's offered?**

Not a lot so far. The focus is mostly on instruction ideas and resources for teachers. But there's more. The Florida Virtual School has some pre-algebra lessons, which walk students through some basic problems. Want to know more about Jean Ribault's role in claiming Florida for France? The Florida Center for Instructional Technology has that and other information on the site. Historic postcards for areas of the state, including Jacksonville, are also available. Some Florida universities already have a lot of information on iTunes U. Florida State College at Jacksonville has math, English, humanities and other lessons on iTunes U.

### **How will local districts take advantage of the site?**

That depends on the district. Students in Duval County don't have access to iTunes at school, but teachers do. The district doesn't have the technology in place to give access to students yet, but it's researching the best way to take advantage of the latest tools, said district spokeswoman Jill Johnson. In Putnam, the district has been encouraging teachers and students to put together their own podcasts, said Marsha Cruce, Putnam's technology specialist. The district is working toward making some of those podcasts available on iTunes eventually. Nassau is looking at how it can best use iTunes U.

**How much will it cost to access to the material?**

Nothing. It's free to anyone in or outside the state. Anyone with a computer can access the information by downloading the iTunes software, which is free.

**Where can I find out more?**

[www.floridaitunesu.com](http://www.floridaitunesu.com)