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## Escambia Schools Take Part In iTunes Pilot Program

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The Escambia County School District is part of a pilot program that is taking education to iTunes.

The Florida Department of Education recently launched a new iTunes Uweb site, providing free multimedia content to schools, parents, administrators and teachers both in Florida and around the world. As part of iTunes U, an area of the iTunes Store offering free education content, Florida's new site provides access to audio, video, research and text files that are designed to enhance what, when, and where individuals learn.

“Through the iTunes U launch, Florida teachers are able to bring enriching educational experiences in multimedia formats to students and approach the learning process in new and exciting ways,” said Education Commissioner Dr. Eric J. Smith. “We’re happy to offer districts and educators this efficient content sharing tool and can’t wait to see the innovative materials and lessons they are able to build to enhance the education of our students.”

Anyone can access the media files on the site; it is free and open to the public. Florida is concentrating on providing professional development resources for teachers. It is not necessary to have an iPod to watch the podcasts, any modern computer with an Internet connection will work. iTunes U content is totally free of charge. Parents concerned about their children accessing other content on iTunes can “turn off” access to the iTunes store and allowed access to iTunes U using the parental controls in the latest version of iTunes. The iTunes software is available for free download.

To visit the Florida iTunes U site, go to [www.floridaitunesu.com](http://www.floridaitunesu.com). The iTunes software can also be downloaded at that link.

Materials to be accessed through Florida's iTunes U Web portal must first be submitted for review to Florida's participating content partners where it will be subjected to a rigorous evaluation to ensure all materials maintain the highest standards of quality, accuracy, and relevance. Florida's current content partners include the Florida Department of Education, Florida Memory: State Library and Archives of Florida, the Florida Humanities Council, the School District of Manatee County, Broward County Public Schools, Escambia County School District, Orange County Public Schools, the Florida Center for Instructional Technology, and Florida Virtual School.

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