



December 2006 CPS Users Survey of Primarily Northwest US CPS Users

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Welcome back to the 2007 part of the 2006-2007 school year! Congratulations to Monte K. from Koelsch Elementary School in Boise for winning a \$100 gift card to the store of his choice (Cabela's!). Thanks to all 68 of you who participated!

Question 1 - What level do you teach? (Check all that apply.)

K - 3 14 20.59%

4 14 20.59%

5 10 14.71%

6 17 25.00%

7 19 27.94%

8 16 23.53%

9 16 23.53%

10 16 23.53%

11 - 12 19 27.94%

Higher Education 7 10.29%

Question 2 - In which subject(s) do you use CPS to instruct or assess?

Math 32 47.76%

Reading 21 31.34%

English Language Arts 24 35.82%

Other World Languages 4 5.97%

Science 22 32.84%

Social Studies 15 22.39%

Professional Technical Education 15 22.39%

Music 0 0.00%

Other 14 20.90%

Question 3 - Can you recommend a conference or trade show in the Northwest where you'd like to see eInstruction presented or exhibited? Would you like to partner with us in presenting? Please provide a URL if possible.

- Northwest Math Conference
- Technology Expo in Boise
- NCCE in Spokane, WA
- Not sure when NMSA and NCSS will be in the Northwest.
- How about the Reading Caravan? They visit a lot of little rural areas
- Please return to Preston, Idaho when you can.
- "<http://www.ncce.org> It is being held in Spokane this year."
- "At the NCCE and NECC conferences of course, how about at the state instructional/assessment conference in Jan."
- Utah Science Teacher's Association
- UACTE conference in St. George on February 23 & 24.
- Fall Regional Math Conferences would be great!
- Yakima Convention Center or ESD
- Idaho LifeLong Learning, Sun Valley, ID Usually 3rd weekend in October.
- NSTA - Changes every year, this year its in Salt Lake
- ISTE
- You already participate at the Boise Tech Expo
- National Technology conference is in Spokane, WA in February.
- I think it would be great at the math conferences.
- NCTM in 2008 at the national conference
- NSTA—science
- AP Institute? I was at a great one in Bellevue, WA at the end of June last year....
- Northwest Technology Conference
- LCSC partners with the school districts in our region (K-12) to put on the 'PIE' conference. (Partners in Education - I think??) This would be a great conference to demonstrate if you haven't done so in the past.
- "Idaho Science Teacher's Association
- National Science Teacher's Association"
- There is a reading conference held in Sun Valley, Idaho, that might be a great place for a presentation for the teachers of Idaho.
- NYSCATE - There is a conference in November and March. I would love to partner with einstruction to present.

- Don't know about the Northwest (does that include Utah?) SWCOLT (Southwest Coalition of Language Teachers) will be in Salt Lake City in the spring of 2008
- "Sopris West bettereducator.com"
- In Utah we have our CTE Summer Conference.
- Ncce is great
- If you can find an alternative school conference (they used to be held in Phoenix), definitely go there. How about the ICTE in October? I'd love to help you out wherever you need it.
- I cannot think of any as you already came to my professional association's conference.
- NWEA if we were still using them in Idaho. They have a great summer conference for teachers in Portland.

Question 4 - Share a GREAT CPS experience or question that lead to LEARNING in your classroom.

- I am trying to get my administration to purchase some of the products you offer. I have many low English level students that are timid to speak in front of class, I think using the clickers would be a great way to get them involved and to continually assess my students.
- I don't have one great moment. The kids always enjoy when we do clickers. They are highly engaged when we use them.
- I am using the clickers for our parents night for drivers training... With the software,,, I have created some questions for parents to answer regarding teens and driving... The parents have loved this activity and the clickers!!! 😊
- My students have done really well by splitting up into teams and working on the team activities. I encouraged them to work together to answer questions in a competition by awarding bonus points to the winning team. They seem to put much more effort into the process when they can work together for a common goal.
- I especially enjoy using CPS in Idaho History. I include choices that may not be correct, but can lead to interesting discussion.
- Surveying staff to help with professional development needs.
- I use CPS to prep kids on how to take a multiple choice test. We discuss and demonstrate strategies for eliminating possible answers. It really helps kids dissect the questions, and leads to better test taking skills.
- I have always taught one of the highest level performance grouped reading classes in 3rd grade. This year I am teaching one of the lower groups. I was very concerned because I have all of my tests and other lessons in the CPS system and didn't know what to expect. Needless to say, the results have been fantastic! The kids are performing with high B's & A's...at grade level. They love using the clickers and am very happy with their results. We also use it in our afterschool reading intervention program once a week. We have a better turn out to class on that night than the other 2 days a week.

- When the students all clicked the right answer in record time. We all got excited. (It's a Middle School thing.)
- I am just learning the system but hope to be able to share class design in the future
- "When I first used CPS in my lower ability math classroom, one of my students who claims to 'totally hate math' wrote me a note that said, 'Mrs. Summers, Your Rock! and Math rocks! and I am sad that I'm going to move at the end of the year. Thanks, Mic'"
- I was so excited that I nearly forgot about my other classes and students and wanted to just play with the CPS units. Thanks for the enthusiasm you are giving my students and me. "
 1. Old idea I have given: type in wrong answer to ones shown as review - hopefully a sharp student will 'catch' your 'mistake' - you can regrade later.
 2. Go over answers in games - they look at questions and answers one more time. Repetition has improved grades and makes students feel like they know the answers - even if you give same questions but mix up answers."
- The use of the graphs after student's have answered the question, helps students focus on their answers rather than random clicking.
- We have a Math TOSA. Last year she used the CPS unit to really work on number sense and geometric sense. Our MAPs assessments show huge growth in both areas.
- I've been reviewing ISAT questions with CPS - it has been a great teaching tool to get the students to actually work out the math problems instead of guessing. POD in Math (parts of a fraction)
- A Competition among the students from a 'There it is!' activity review mitosis and meiosis. The kids really get into it.
- It helped focus our staff on this year's goals.
- Shared with colleague who uses it more than I have.
- I create a review question for math each day with something that we have been doing in class. Then, I am able to look at the answers and can tell when we are still struggling with a topic. Plus, we review how to do the problem so that everyone in class can tell what mistakes they may have made.
- The students love to see the top ten, although I often make the speed/accuracy bonus only 1 point or remove it to discourage fast guessing.
- Our Social Studies teacher uses the Blue clickers with the overhead to do a quick quiz of countries they have studied. He loves them.
- Students come in excited to review.
- There It Is is well-received by students
- Students debated the options given on the textbook multiple choice questions when the answers were disclosed. We looked up info on the internet and in books to see if a) the question was flawed b) our interpretation was flawed c) the choices were inaccurate or d) the choices were not linguistically accurate or understood by 7th graders.
- Really creates enthusiasm and energy in the classroom. I have witnessed several teachers at Koelsch using the systems.
- I have not had the opportunity to use the clickers in my own classroom, but will be getting them in the very near future. I have talked with many who use them

and they say they are wonderful learning tools and that the students really enjoy them as well.

- We have had collaboration meetings and I helped present a mini workshop on how to use the CPS unit to the science staff
- We have used CPS in our resource room as a follow up to a lesson. It's great for the students to be able to visually see what they missed, and be able to go back over why they picked the answer they did. We even encourage students to use critical thinking skills to debate with other students why their answer might be right.
- I set up a couple of problems to solve after presenting the relevant material in a lecture. We did the first problem with the clickers, and then I asked the students if they wanted to do the second one or just move on with the rest of the lecture. The answer was a resounding YES even though most of the class got the correct answer on the first one. They like the problem solving and the immediate feedback, and it clearly re-energized and re-focused everyone for the remaining 20 minutes of lecture material.
- Our network was down one day recently so we used the CPS instead. I had created a technology lesson to use for such an occasion. It was the beginning of the semester and my 6th graders were very excited to use the CPS. They quickly learned that it was easy to use, but that they did not know quite as much about technology as they thought they did!
- Any time I use CPS; my students learn a bunch! It is so engaging.
- My students use CPS pre and post lesson to ensure strong understanding of grammatical concepts and culture.
- "I use CPS to teach computers. I have lots of questions about computers (hardware, software, etc.). I use these questions to teach students about computers. I will present a question and depending on how many people answer the question correctly I will then spend time on that question to explain why the answer was what it was. For instance, I might use a question like: What type of storage is temporary and will be lost when the computer is turned off? I will then have the options: A. RAM, B. ROM, C. SIMM, D. DIMM.
- If the students mostly answer C, then I would take time to explain why A is the answer and what C actually is. If everyone answered A, then I would know that I wouldn't have to spend time on that question and move on to the next question.
- I also use the Top Scores option to motivate students to get ahead and try and answer the questions."
- I had finished a CPS lesson with my Advanced LA students and had attached the website for the SAT Question of the Day...not thinking the students (7th graders) would actually want to visit the site that day. To my surprise they did. I quickly switched to verbal mode and the students responded to the question on the SAT site. I entered the 'majority' response. The students were thrilled. This is now part of our daily routine.
- I thought it would take a lot of time out of my day to use CPS. Instead, I found that when I have one of those 5 minute spaces to fill, I throw up a quick oral math or reading question and let the kids click away. They love it, I get a feel for what I may still not have taught very well, and I have spent 5 minutes very well.

- Being able to add graphics is great
- I often use the CPS to demonstrate the power of them to my college PreService teachers. They think it is wonderful to have the immediate feedback. I also work with InService teachers - they and their students now leave the CPS velcroed to the desk top and ready for response.
- Lots of the questions from the ISAT reviews are poorly written/incorrect. It's great to discuss test-taking strategies with students, and they enjoy hearing how I feel about difficult questions— I 'think' them through it and it raises the students' awareness.
My students were having trouble remember prefixes and suffixes so we put them and their definitions on the CPS lesson and the students did WAY better.
- We used the system to get ready for a test, and most kids did real well.
- We have used CPS in conjunction with the quizzes included in the United Streaming videos.
- I was extremely happy when our new textbooks arrived and I found an ExamView CD in the resource guide. I am very excited to start using the whole system now.
- We use the clickers regularly to study vocab for math tests. It's a great way for me to do quick checks of their knowledge. I've even left them for use with a sub and they did just great 😊

Question 5 - Have you overcome any obstacles in order to use CPS in your classroom?

- Still in the obstacle stage. Money for technology is hard to get. I have been looking for grants to help purchase them.
- The only obstacles have been minor glitches that I learned how to solve, for example when the system didn't recognize the receiver, etc.
- The biggest obstacle to overcome was financial. Finding the \$\$\$\$ to purchase the product.
- Definitely. I have a bank of five computers, but no lap top available which can be set up on a cart to use with the clickers. I have had to install CPS on one of the stationary computers and plug the projector into it as needed.
- No
- I have built up my data bases, and games... I am more likely to help non-users become familiar with the system. There is a lot more that CPS could do for my class, but I just don't have enough time to explore the possibilities.
- I don't have the system in my room. My colleague was nice enough to switch rooms with me.
- Through help of Amy Jones we are about to start using, and will focus on fast grade to start lessons. We are still waiting for delivery of the complete system before we start
- "#1 Being brave enough to want to use them.
#2 Being brave enough to ask my Technology leader for a set.
#3 Being brave enough to ask again, right after your training session in Preston.
#4 Being brave enough to fight discouragement that my ignorance brings.

#5 Convincing a new teacher that me, the old dog, can learn new tricks and that she could use the system later, right now I was going to succeed if I had an attack!

Just to name a few....

- Just time to make up questions - like to do the games so I run off questions - and mix them up - lable as A, B and even C versions. Make it short - 20 questions or less.
- The physical set up and learning the software and TIME TIME TIME!
- Still working on it - we have written a grant to be able to purchase them!
- Just getting started
- not yet
- The bulk of a projector and antiquated laptop sharing the top of a too small cart.
- "Having a projector.
- Battery life. (note from Amy – this is most likely an obstacle for the Gen1 RF pads and I have one recommendation: use the auto Power Off Pads feature under Settings/Delivery Options/Receiver).
- Need some more training and haven't had time or staff available to do so.
- My students pick up their clicker each morning for check in and then keep them on their desks for the rest of the day. Getting them handed out in the past was always a big problem.
- Time to get things set up is my only obstacle
- We would do better if the set up was easier.
- Having 37 students in class and 32 clickers
- yes
- Yes---Ordered the textbook exam view CD through my rep and it cost me nothing, and learned how to download it and use it correctly all via e-mail prompts from the CPS folks!
- Yes - again, Amy knows!
- Just funding challenges to get equipment and laptops, etc.
- Time to write the quizzes.
- still learning, but trying something new each time, like putting graphics in questions or doing a game
- The only obstacle I can see, is my lack of knowledge on how to set the clickers up. After taking the workshop offered at our school, I am trying to become more familiar with the many different ways to use it with our groups.
- Nothing major other than the general issues associated with introducing a new methodology. I also use them in a lab setting where we don't have a projection screen, so we mounted a monitor on a tall cart so the students could see it better (they were still using the older clickers).
- Only getting the district to purchase a set!
- We are working on getting CPS scheduled on more of a regular basis. We will have a projector in the classroom soon.
- No...the system has been easy to use and navigate.
- The biggest obstacle to me is finding the time to set up the activities I want to do.
- Just learning the software and what it is capable of doing.

- As I stated above, I thought it would take too much time out of my day. But to the contrary, the kids love it and I can even use it as a reward. If you get all of your penmanship done, we will do a blue clicker question.
- time element ---prior prep helps
- Not having a projector in my classroom makes it kind of crazy, so I have since created a check-out sheet so I know when it will be available.
- Placement of the receiver has been something to consider. A few teachers have Velcro-ed it to their board.
- We struggle with using CPS questions and our Public Drive. We want to share tests and questions but have a hard time transporting them with the graphics intact.
- No, most of what I have done using CPS has come with very little adjustment to my teaching style.
- I had the projector installed on the ceiling, which really helped. It was on a cart and it was bumped a lot.
- Yes...with Amy's help:) Thank you! I just couldn't get the correct numbers to show up at the bottom of my screen.
- Just using the CPS often helps me overcome the obstacle of set up & use.

Question 6 - How did you get funding for your system or chalkboard?

- Working on it. Grants will be my best option.
- My principal is very supportive so I'm not sure where she got the funds.
- The Meridian school district got clickers from Pearson book company as a perk of purchasing their books and products....The second set of clickers and wireless chalkboard we bought from Amy for our drivers training school.
- PTA fund raising moneys.
- We were able to provide a grant program to our educators to get systems into the classroom. I was able to get one of those grants.
- I wrote a grant for half of it, which I received. Our PTO came up with the rest.
- District Tech Bond
- Title I funds.
- I actually won my CPS system at a Renaissance Convention in Florida a couple of years ago. I had been using it occasionally and loved it, but was very frustrated that I didn't have my own system. So, when we went to the demo at the convention I told them I wasn't leaving until I won a drawing & I DID!!!
- Grants
- Out of our annual budget
- Grants and title 1 money
- My district technology specialist is very creative and has acquired several sets through grant writing. Thank goodness he wants to share his rewards and knowledge.
- I won at a workshop - but I would raise money to get one - so worthwhile.
- Grant money
- Used tech funds

- CTE funds have purchased these machines, whether it is through Comprehensive Guidance or regular CTE school funds.
- Grant is pending - I used a loaner.
- No Limit
- Internal Deans Grant
- in house tech monies
- District Science Supervisor
- I won the unit at the Boise Tech Expo, three years ago I think.
- Our parent volunteer organization funded it when I didn't get a grant.
- Applied for a grant
- District funds for Business Academy
- Smartboard was funded through an Albertson's tech grant, CPS, another grant.
- A grant through our Brave Parents board (PTA)
- Prentice Hall
- Division Chair believed it was important.
- science department funds allocated from the district
- Our Smartboard came through the k-12 program we are involved in at our school.
- Departmental and college funds
- I believe it was through a grant.
- I can't remember.
- Grant, grant, and another grant.
- District Purchased
- Our district CTE director bought one for each of our schools and then we purchased more.
- Given as part of my Teacher of the Year 2005.
- School technology monies.
- grants Idaho EETT
- District bought it
- grants and more grants
- Grants; vo-tech money
- We received some Albertson's money because our test scores were really high.
- No Limits math grant.
- Grant from the Albertsons Foundation
- State money.
- We have a grant person who applied for a grant and so that off set the cost of buying a board.
- A grant.
- Albertson's foundation??

Question 7 - How do you primarily use CPS? Check up to 3.

Verbal/Chalkboard mode questions 26 41.27%

Daily questions prepared in CPS 22 34.92%

With ExamView during instruction 13 20.63%

With ExamView during assessment 14 22.22%

Assessment questions prepared in CPS 33 52.38%

Team Activities 29 46.03%

ISAT, WASL or UTIPS Questions 19 30.16%

FastGrade (with other materials) 15 23.81%

Other (see next question) 4 6.35%

Total 63 92.65%

Question 8 - What other ways do you use CPS on a regular basis?

- I would like to use them daily for interaction with students. I have a wide range of ability levels in some classes, this would help get everyone involved.
- Pretest/posttest
- Using the wireless chalkboard,, I draw diagrams and make comments on the screen for easier visibility in class...
- During Holidays, I will create a series of trivia questions or use the bank of trivia questions to quiz the kids on holiday knowledge.
- I use it to review material before tests.
- Regular testing & review.
- None
- Just starting
- Attendance
- I am just beginning; however, my plans are to use CPS in every subject I teach to further my students' excitement for learning and retention of subject material.
- "Use chalkboard and record (have students record) answers on a PowerPoint chart - just save and can go back and record to grade book later.
- Lots of review questions - start the class with 10 to 20 points - doing it more as each year goes by and I make up more questions."
- I use the verbal/chalkboard questions as well.
- We have a concern about the language preparedness of our Kindergartners. We are going to make activities asking them to identify positional words, common nouns etc, anything we can do through pictures.
- Sometimes for presentations
- Feedback when teaching new concepts, vocabulary tests, test reviews.

- During lecturing or explaining I have a higher level thinking question then they have to click in then we start eliminating why that can't be the corect answer. I teach ELL students so I always have vocabulary words throughout lesson.
- None yet
- Review a lot of material, and to get an idea of how well the kids really know it.
- ISAT preparation
- "Reviewing specific areas for ISAT prep----practice questions.
- Fast grade for assessments in their textbooks."
- We use them for our ESL students. It is helpful to them to see the words.
- Review before tests
- review for state competency test
- None other than above
- Discussion
- games for review
- review before a test
- Review, test prep
- That's all so far.
- Cultural review, listening comprehension...
- I need to do more.
- Games test review
- I have used it with the DDC software (www.ddctraining.com). I have students go through the training mode where they can get help. I have each student stay on the same question. When they complete a question (it is actually a performance question), they can then click in. I use a Yes/No verbal question for this. I set a time limit (3-4 minutes) and tell them that they can help each other out, but they cannot touch other people's mouse or keyboard. I tell them that if there is even just one person that hasn't finished before the time is up, then they will not get the points for the Top Scores option. That really motivates them to help each other out.
- Lunch count
- verbal, team -as a wonderful review, fast grade
- I use it each semester to do an introductory survey. Also for extra credit for students who are ahead.
- I'm just starting to use the chalkboard.
- During class meetings it provides a totally private way of gathering student input - verbal questions and some pre-made questions
- Classroom interest surveys for interest approaches.
- Teach writing lessons
- "I've done a lot of work on rounding numbers with my students in math. They really struggle with this.
- I'm excited to help my students prepare for our upcoming spelling bee using the clickers!"
- For practice with spelling-lunch count
- Check with differential instruction in mind to set up centers

Question 9 - What additional software or hardware features would make CPS even better?

- I don't know what ExamView is.
- I would love to have the wireless notebook. Wish I'd known about it before I ordered a Smartboard.
- A 'oral translation' feature would be awesome for students to use...In other words,, some kind of way that the students could speak the vocabulary and then have their 'accent' rated by the computer in terms of 'Fluent' sounding or not.... Some computer language learning programs have this feature to give instant oral recognition feedback in Spanish.... That would be really neat!
- A Smartboard has worked really well in my room. A remote mouse pointer works well too. It frees you from the computer.
- I need a lap top and a cart to make CPS more user friendly and portable.
- Making Mac version more like PC
- If we had more in our school to use. 8th grade science class uses it extensively.
- Power Point download
- No sure
- Right now I do not know...but I will dream big as I gain new experiences with the system.
- Timer for the games - 1st in gets the extra point but would like to put timer so can have students answer and not get distracted.
- Easier import of pictures, better 'apply all' function to format question font.
- More and More visuals that could be added to question banks.
- Showing correct answer checked when using Exam View
- Ability to import SASI
- Cut and paste, copy and paste
- Links to appropriate web sites, eg. classification, microorganisms, etc. general topics
- Rubber case. Kids are always dropping the key pads on the floor. I have a few that no longer work.
- chalkboard
- "In the grade book, the average scores only take into account assessments or activities in which the student participated. (This is true of ExamView as well in some reports and in the grade book.) However, sometimes it would be useful to include ALL activities, with a score of zero for those in which the student did not participate.
- Not sure if that's clear, so here's an example. Assume three exercises worth 5 pts each. John Doe does all three, accumulated 15 pts, and his cumulative percentage is shown as 100%. Jane Doe only does two and accumulates 10 pts. However, since she got full credit for the two in which she participated, her cumulative score also is 100%. In some cases that's fine, but it would be nice to have the option to include all possible points such that Jane's score would show up as 67%.
- Integration with School Tools grading system.

- I would like to be able to import short videos and news clips.
- Shared bank of activities for world language teachers.
- The CPS for PowerPoint product would be really great if it could import questions like the regular CPS program and create the slides for the questions automatically.
- Being able to use the 'ctrl' key (ie 'ctrl u' to underline) when typing questions.
- I have not thought about that enough. Let me get back to you.
- better and easier way to get class lists from Powerschool
- Put a way to attach the receiver to a wall or higher location without Velcro
- Spell check. To be honest, I'm still learning the features that I HAVE that I don't use.
- I'd like an easier way to organize the subjects.
- I have the old system, so I am sure the new one would be more consistent in reliability, but as a whole, the system is great.
- Not sure
- Some sort of super strong magnet on the back of the clickers so that they're easily accessible to the kids w/o passing them out.
- SMART BOARD

Question 10 - If your name is chosen to win the \$100 gift card, which store do you choose? Good luck!

Note from Amy – As you may know, Mr. K from Koelsch Elementary in Boise won this prize – and chose Cabela's; however, this was such an interesting question to ask teachers so I've decided to post the results in alphabetical order:

- A book store :)
- Apple
- Barnes & Nobel Booksellers
- Barnes & Noble
- Barnes and Noble
- Barnes and Noble or Hastings
- Bed, Bath and Beyond
- Bed, Bath and Beyond
- Best Buy
- Best Buy
- Best Buy
- Best Buy
- Best Buy
- Best Buy or Staples
- BEST BUY! :-)
- Cabela's
- Cabela's or Sportsman's Warehouse
- Comp USA

- We don't have many stores in this area, but Wal-Mart is here.
- What ever store you recommend.
- Yours