ATTACHMENT 5

Project Share

project
Share®
Knowledge knows no boundaries
JUST IMAGINE . . .
www.projectsharetexas.org

JUST IMAGINE . . .

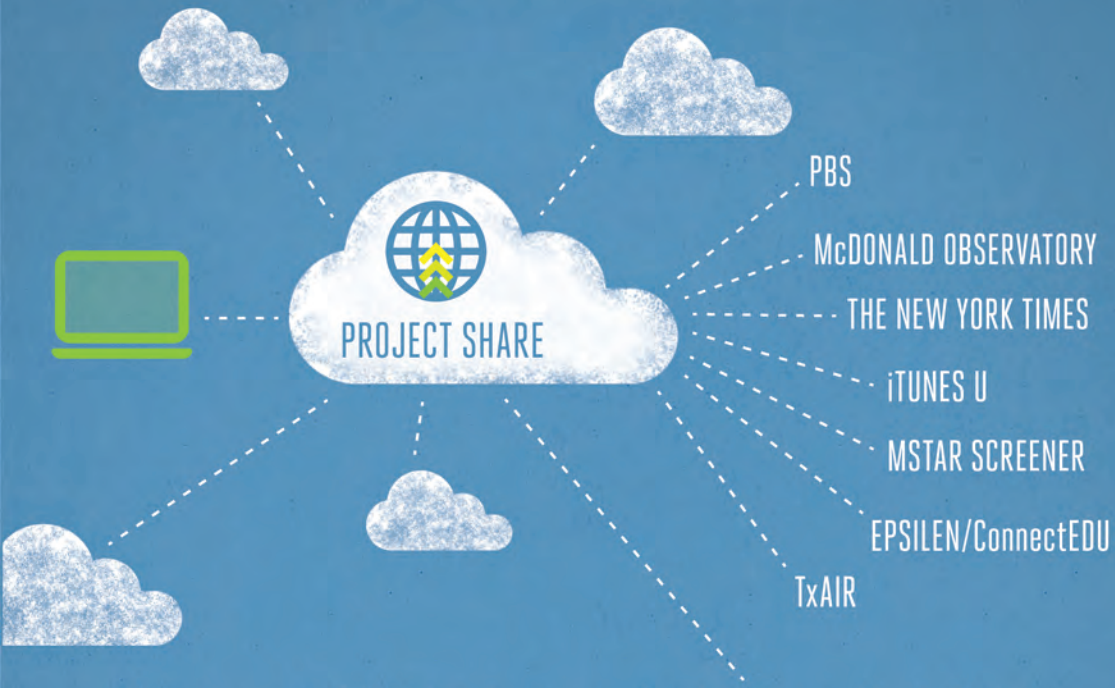
- An online environment where educators collaborate with one another, share best practices and instructional resources, and discover new ways to support student success
- Instant access to high-quality digital content and learning applications through a single, user-friendly gateway
- Professional development training online, anytime you want the very latest from thought leaders in your discipline
- Students accelerating their own learning using standards-aligned content and personalized digital tools that take them beyond the walls of a traditional classroom
- All of this available free of charge to Texas educators and students

The future of learning is here. The Texas Education Agency's Project Share has been helping to create education success stories across the state since 2009.

"Project Share continues to grow at a phenomenal rate. This rapid growth represents a valuable opportunity to work with districts and learn how best to provide online resources to ensure student success. The Texas Education Agency looks forward to continuing its support of Project Share and expanding 21st century learning across the state. The next generation of education begins here."

Michael L. Williams
Texas Commissioner of Education

The Texas Education Agency has collaborated with groundbreaking content and application providers to produce Project Share—an interactive and engaging learning environment for all Texas public and open enrollment charter schools.



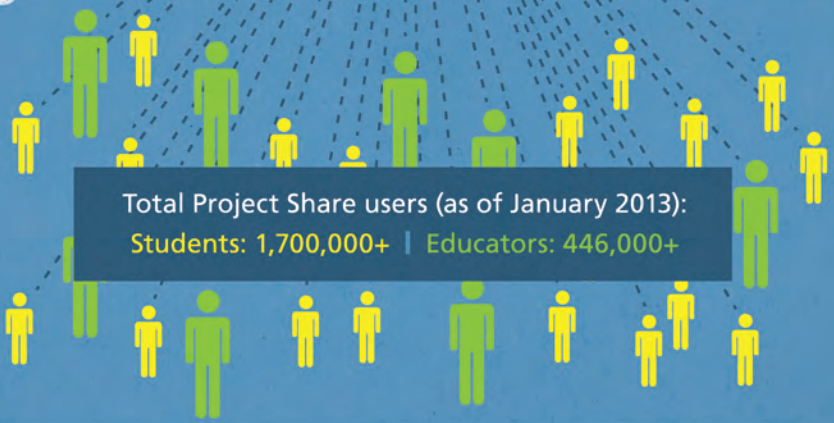
If you're a part of the education community, there's something in Project Share for you. How you engage with the content is completely up to you. Some districts have chosen to fully immerse their schools in Project Share, while others have just gotten started by identifying a single tool or set of resources to enhance their classroom experience.

Superintendents. Principals. Teachers. Students. Parents. All have seen their worlds of learning expand dramatically since the launch of Project Share. Just imagine the possibilities that exist for you…

JUST IMAGINE . . .

THE PLACE TO BE

Since its 2009 launch, the number of Project Share users continues to grow by leaps and bounds. More students, teachers, principals, and superintendents are joining the Project Share community every week.



Total Project Share users (as of January 2013):
Students: 1,700,000+ | Educators: 446,000+

"For the students, it empowers their ownership in what they're learning and how they're learning. And it also empowers them to order the way they approach information."

Janice McNeil
Librarian, Cypress Lakes High School

. . . TEACHING REAL-WORLD PRACTICES

As Texas educators, we're not just preparing students to succeed in school—we also have a responsibility to prepare them to thrive in the real world. Rockdale ISD science teacher Art Free was planning to incorporate project-based learning into his classrooms when he realized that it needed a collaboration component to really achieve that real-world workplace feel.

Free turned to Project Share because he saw it had the potential to add that extra dimension to his lessons as well as provide him with a new way to communicate with his students. Through a course he created, Free disseminated all work assignments for his Pre-AP Biology classes, and his students used the drop box to upload their completed work. All assignments were digital and placed in the Project Share cloud, which is linked to the students' Project Share ePortfolios. His students also worked collaboratively as they were assigned into different virtual workgroups throughout the year.

The digital format allowed few missed opportunities for students, despite their often hectic schedules. Even with his own busy schedule, Free was able to leave simple instructions for substitute teachers while he attended to his responsibilities outside the school. Once he was in San Angelo with one group of students while he was simultaneously able to log in to Project Share and answer questions and provide further instructions for another class of students. "I was able to be in two places at the same time," he explains. Redefining efficiency in teaching is just another service that Project Share provides.

JUST IMAGINE . . .

Total number of educators using OnTRACK:
18,000+

Total number of students using OnTRACK:
28,000+

Total number of OnTRACK courses shared across Texas:
5,000+

TRACKING SUCCESS

One of Project Share's most popular resources is OnTRACK student lessons, which supplement classroom instruction and intervention with engaging learning activities that use videos, graphics, and interactives.

**All totals as of January 2013*

"We're a very small school, and we have to think big with less."

Marsha Winship
Principal, Richarte High School

. . . KEEPING STUDENTS OnTRACK FOR COLLEGE & CAREER READINESS

Richarte High School in Georgetown is unique in that it's a self-paced, academic alternative school for at-risk students. But the school is certainly not alone in its belief that Project Share's OnTRACK lessons are an excellent tool for preparing students for success on the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR™) exams.

"I absolutely love it," says teacher Mandy Meredith, who uses the hands-on lessons for World Geography tutorials. "It gets right to the point, and it's led to great discussions."

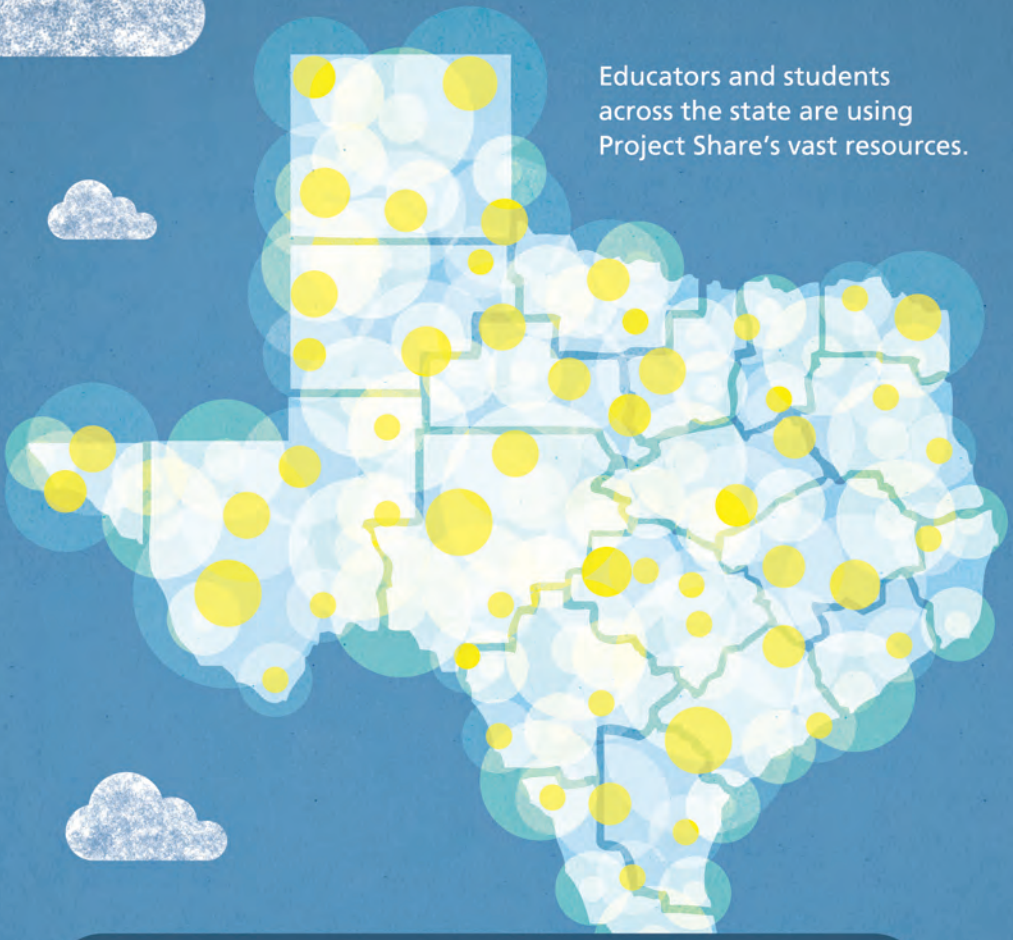
Enthusiasm for OnTRACK extends well beyond the classroom at Richarte. Principal Marsha Winship feels that the courses are more intuitively aligned with the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) than other third-party courses they've explored. In fact, the Richarte teachers find the courses so interesting that they're taking pieces of the lessons and assigning them as homework because the coursework is more engaging than standard exercises.

Winship even recommends OnTRACK as a highly useful tool for parents—with the courses helping them to really understand a subject so that they can provide support to their students as needed.

"And it's free," she says. "Do you understand how crazy that is? The savings to the district can go into something else for the teachers or the students."

JUST IMAGINE . . .

Educators and students across the state are using Project Share's vast resources.



"One of the things that we noticed was when we allowed students to participate in a forum, in a group, whatever it was, even our shy students who normally don't want to speak out in class would participate."

Becky Cook
Director of Instructional Technology, Cypress-Fairbanks ISD

. . . EMBRACING 21ST CENTURY TECHNOLOGIES

There's no doubt that today's students have come to accept digital communication as the norm. Sheri Hayes, a teacher and Instructional Technology Coordinator at Bishop High School in Bishop CISD, decided to embrace that fact wholeheartedly—with a little help from Project Share.

While exploring the communication features that Project Share offers, Hayes started using the chat function extensively with her students. It allows her to moderate questions and discussions during any video presentations in class. She was even able to use it to host a live chat with students on the night of the 2012 presidential election as a way to flip instruction—continuing to follow up on the discussion points during the next day's class.

Interacting with students in a method that they respond to (even when they're outside of school) and modeling professional communication skills is a truly powerful way to help them reach their full potential. The district's superintendent, Christina Gutierrez, fully supports Project Share and encourages Hayes and her fellow educators to maximize Project Share's vast opportunities. That top-down enthusiasm for the digital environment translates into a whole community of teachers and students reaping the benefits.

JUST IMAGINE . . .

Online Teacher Professional Development
Average tuition
$100
per course

Student-Centered Supplemental Resources for 20–60 Students
Average cost of
$1,768

Development of Online Courses
Average cost of
$140,000
per course

SHOW US THE MONEY

School districts can spend thousands of dollars per year for online professional development and student resources. Project Share resources are completely free to all users—allowing districts to reallocate those savings to other needs.

"Professional development in Project Share is critical because it's a very economical and often, in today's climate, more realistic avenue for teachers to get that necessary professional development that they need in a variety of things."

Lannon Heflin
Program Manager for Instructional Technology Initiatives, Region XIII Education Service Center

. . . EMPOWERING TEACHERS TO GROW

All teachers need the opportunity to learn right alongside their students. Wimberley ISD is aware of that, which is why it opted to use Project Share's English Language Proficiency Standards (ELPS) professional development training for its teachers. The result? Some very happy—and extra knowledgeable—educators.

"We were looking for innovative ways to bring valuable training to the teachers, and we were able to do just that," says Dee Howard, Assistant Superintendent. "Plus it was very convenient that it was self-paced, and teachers could return to the training if they needed to." Teachers liked the ease of the online format, and administrators felt confident because everyone was getting the same training in a method that was simple to track and verify.

Of course, ELPS training is just part of Project Share's vast collection of professional development options—all of which have been reviewed and vetted at the state level—that provide a consistency and convenience not available in face-to-face training. Think of it as tremendous growth potential, right at your fingertips.

JUST IMAGINE . . .

Project Share offers a staggering amount of resources for educators and students—with additional features, lessons, and tools constantly being added—but there are a few that are especially popular with users.

MOST-USED PROJECT SHARE TOOLS:

Kid2Kid Videos
Math and science concepts taught to a student by a student

OnTRACK Lessons
Online courses supplementing classroom instruction

Professional Development Courses
Credit-bearing training opportunities for practicing and pre-service educators

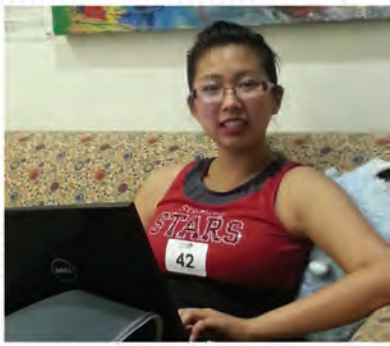
"The ePortfolio feature is a really unique feature to learning management systems, so that's one of the reasons why I like Project Share. It allows our kids to document the growth that they have accomplished as they progress through their school career, and it allows them to actually learn about digital citizenship in the process."

Jill Galloway
Coordinator of Instructional Technology, Irving ISD

. . . ENSURING EVERY STUDENT HAS ACCESS TO EDUCATION

Project Share enables learning to transcend the walls of a classroom—but it can also bring the classroom to anyone who may need it. That access made all the difference in the world to Briana Nguyen, a junior at Cy-Fair High School in Cypress. At the beginning of her freshman year, Briana was diagnosed with leukemia, which kept her out of school for most of the year. Typically, that would have left her so far behind her classmates that keeping up would have been virtually impossible.

Enter Project Share. Working from home and the hospital, Brianna was able to stay on course with her classes (and her peers). In between visits from teachers, she was able to log in, retrieve her assignments, access resources, ask for help, and turn in her completed work—all through Project Share's virtual ecosystem of classroom tools. That ability to keep up with her studies meant that Briana didn't have to put her whole life on hold while she focused on her health.



Happily, Briana is back in school today—now excitedly using Project Share's ePortfolio feature to collaborate with fellow students on creative projects, to spread the word about canned food drives and National Honor Society meetings, and to house her résumé in anticipation of preparing for college applications. She's taken her access to 21st century educational technology and run with it.

Which students will be next to have their academic lives transformed?

JUST IMAGINE . . .

. . . SUPERINTENDENTS

Adding tremendous value to the educational experience for everyone in your schools—at absolutely no extra cost to your district. Improving district-wide collaboration and synergy to more effectively further your mission.

. . . PRINCIPALS

Opening up new, fully-secure methods of teacher-student communication. Accessing free, standards-aligned professional development and instructional resources to keep your teachers inspired and tapped into the latest thinking.

. . . TEACHERS

Helping your students explore the world beyond the classroom walls by engaging in 21st century learning techniques. Collaborating with other educators on lessons that will excite students and motivate them to exceed expectations.

. . . STUDENTS

Learning good digital citizenship while preparing for the classrooms and workplaces of tomorrow. Interacting with your schoolwork in a way that feels relevant to your everyday life.

. . . PARENTS

Discovering ways to help your children find the additional practice, resources, and support they need to excel in their courses. Using educational content and activities to truly engage them in the process of learning—even after the school day is over.

And the best part? You don't need to imagine any longer, because Project Share is waiting for you right now. So why not join the Project Share learning community and begin writing your very own success story today?

"With Project Share, you can practice being professional and have mature conversations with teachers and other students."

Rina Rivera
Student, Bishop High School

"Teachers are collaborative by nature and want to share ideas and information with each other—this provides just the perfect opportunity. It is worth learning. I can't imagine teaching without it now. I really can't. It's just fabulous."

Cyndy Harrison
U.S. History Teacher, Cypress Lakes High School

THE CLASSROOM OF THE FUTURE IS JUST A FEW CLICKS AWAY . . .

www.projectsharetexas.org

project Share®

Knowledge knows no boundaries

www.projectsharetexas.org

PROJECT SHARE IS GUIDED BY:

Texas Education Agency

Anita Givens, Associate Commissioner, Standards and Programs

Kerry Ballast, Project Director

Rebecca Freedholm, Project Share Coordinator

TEA Project Share Advisory Team

Education Service Center Project Share Advisory Committee

ESC Project Share Contacts

Educator Project Share Focus Groups

Project Share Content Developers

Project Share Support Center at the Institute for Public School Initiatives, The University of Texas at Austin