



# Online News

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AESA Online News

February 22, 2010

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## **AESA News**

### **1. Coming next week: 2010 Annual Conference Call for Presentations**

AESA will be sending its call for presentations for the December 1-4 Annual Conference at Savannah, Georgia next week. It will be sent to ESA superintendents and CEOs, and will be posted on the AESA website. The conference theme is "Meeting Challenges ... Celebrating Success."

This year's conference will have four stands:

- ESA Board Members setting direction through policy, leadership, and innovation
- ESAs assisting schools in meeting the four U.S. Department of Education principles:
  - Achieving equity in teacher distribution/certification
  - Improving the collection and use of data
  - Improving the quality of standards and assessment
  - Improving struggling schools

- Technology leading us into the future through student, financial, online learning, data warehousing, student learning systems, personal learning networks, and global networking.
- Innovative ESA programs that meet challenges and demonstrate success

AESA encourages CEOs/Superintendents, Board Members, and staff to submit proposals. If your proposal includes an AESA Business Partner, Business Member, or other commercial partner, the majority of the presentation must be about the ESA's activity and led by the ESA staff.

Watch your email for the Call for Proposals and check the AESA website at [www.aesa.us](http://www.aesa.us) for conference updates.

## **2. AESA's miSolutions provides variety of services for the entire family**

AESA's miSolutions program provided through its Business Partnership with Great American Financial Resources offers discount benefits in a variety of services for just \$10 per month for the entire family. The benefits are:

- Coast to Coast Vision that will save you money on vision needs, including eyeglasses, contact lenses, and laser surgery at more than 12,000 locations.
- New Benefits Retail and Mail Order Pharmacy that will save you an average of 30% on prescription drugs.
- Aetna Dental Access ® gives you access to 76,000 dentists with 15%-50% discounts on routine specialty care.
- Consult A Doctor™ offers 24/7 access to its proprietary nationwide cross-coverage network of U.S. licensed physicians for telephone and secure e-mail medical consultations.
- VIP Health and Wellness for savings on vitamins and diabetic supplies.
- Roadside Assistance for roadside assistance 24/7.
- Travel Assistance providing peace of mind knowing help is merely a phone call away.

For more information go to the AESA miSolutions website at:

<https://www.miquotes.com/aesa/DiscountPrograms.aspx> for the list of services under the Discount Programs on the menu bar. Agencies interested in participating in the program may contact AESA Executive Director Brian Talbott at [btalbott@aesaus](mailto:btalbott@aesaus).

The discount packages are not insurance nor are they intended to replace insurance. This discount card program contains a 30-day cancellation period. For a full list of disclosures go to the miSolutions AESA website under the Discount Programs menu bar.

## **Business Partners News**

### **3. Sign up now for Nova Southeastern's ESA Master's and Doctorate degree cohort program in Organizational Leadership**

Nova Southeastern University (NSU) Master's and Doctorate Programs in Organizational Leadership are being customized for ESA members and constituents. Join a national cohort of ESA colleagues for a Master's or Doctorate program that addresses your educational and business needs and unique non-profit leadership role.

- Find the course content you have been seeking including classes that incorporate the topics of entrepreneurship, non-profit accountability, accreditation, operations, and investing as well as techniques for influencing statutes and political agendas.
- Develop strategic action plans using cutting-edge education and business models that will organize, motivate and guide others to achieve organizational and team goals.
- Benefit from leadership perspectives of the information age and the success of international education and educators.

- Enroll in a program that was designed for you, with the guidance and support of your AESA leadership. Attend an international University that was voted #1 Online University in 2008 by OED, is the 6<sup>th</sup> largest not-for-profit accredited university in the country and has the most innovative, accessible, and technologically advanced programs in the nation.

An AESA Scholarship Tuition Reduction (STR) makes your degree affordable. Join the January 2010 AESA national cohort by contacting Dr. Marilyn Gardner at [marigard@nova.edu](mailto:marigard@nova.edu) or call 617-399-1775.

#### **4. AESA Business Partner CAS provides SEAS™ Achievement Plan academic intervention and RTI management**

AESA Business Partner Computer Automation System's SEAS™ Achievement Plan software management platform provides educators with an easy-to-use yet powerful way to manage all the individual plans for students. Computer Automation Systems has programs designed for ESAs and the school districts you serve.

The SEAS™ Achievement Plan solution is a single, centralized repository where all educators – teachers as well as administrators – can build, manage, track progress, and analyze detailed student educational plans. This solution allows for collaborative work among student study teams, child support teams, intervention teams, and others in the educational program allowing them to work separately on the same plans.

SEAS™ Achievement Plans is designed for ease-of-use with single-click operations wherever possible to maximize staff efficiency. Every student plan allows for progress monitoring and tracking, displaying student progress graphically.

SEAS™ Achievement Plans is being released with RTI and Academic Intervention Plans as the first plans with other student plans to follow quickly.

Since the authorization of IDEA 04, Response to Intervention (RTI) as a formal part of the special education identification and eligibility process, has taken hold nationwide. At the same time, school districts are rapidly adopting Intervention-based Instruction within the general education arena. Both of these initiatives require teachers to identify and quickly assign classroom interventions to help struggling students before they get too far behind. Teachers must also track student progress within each intervention, often on a daily basis.

SEAS™ Achievement Plans puts the classroom teacher in control of his or her own data. With the ability to record progress for all students' plans from a single screen, teachers are no longer chained to their desks with administrative paperwork. Teachers can also easily and quickly identify student progress during an intervention that leads to quick decisions based on student results.

For more information about SEAS™ Achievement Plans contact ESA National Program Director Lydia Brasch at [lydia.brasch@seasweb.net](mailto:lydia.brasch@seasweb.net) or call 877 221-7327.

#### **Business Members News**

##### **5. Ascend Math offers free “Successful math strategies” webinar March 9**

Ascend Math, a new AESA Business Member, invites agencies to make 2010 a “Gold Medal Year” by bringing out the personal best in each of your school districts' students. Ascend Math will host a free webinar, *Successful Strategy for Math Intervention: State level enterprise options supported by ARRA stimulus funding*, on March 9. The audience for the webinar includes Title 1,

special education directors, curriculum directors, and media and instructional technology directors.

Ascend Math states that during the webinar, participants will learn:

- “Best Practices” on how other districts have successfully employed online solutions as their Response to Intervention.
- How your school districts can identify students for Tier II and III Math interventions.
- How to raise your districts' test scores and drive grade level gains.
- How to motivate your district' students to achieve math success.
- Step-by-step implementation plans for a variety of scenarios to include how to structure the intervention teaching week, staffing considerations, student motivation and technology infrastructure.
- How you can offer your school districts an affordable math intervention program that will be discounted for multiple sites.

The presenter is Judy Senter, executive director of curriculum and instruction of the Brazosport Independent School District of Freeport, Texas.

Webinar details are:

- Date: Tuesday March 9, 2010 8:30AM PST/9:30AM MST/10:30AM CST/11:30AM EST
- Webinar Registration: <https://www2.gotomeeting.com/join/833765114>
- Telephone access: 630-869-1016 Access Code: 833-765-114
- On Demand Webinar: Available immediately following the webinar
- For more information please call Jack Allen at (877) 843-0277

Attendees will be entered for a chance to win a complimentary 6-month 50 user subscriptions to Ascend Math or an Amazon gift card.

#### **6. Greenbush ESA partnership: Netchemia’s human resource solution helps Kansas school districts attract and retain employees**

The Greenbush Education Service Center, known for providing equal education for all students, is creating an innovative way for Kansas school districts to find, hire and retain qualified employees. Partnering with Netchemia, The Haberman Foundation and Frontline Placement Technologies, financially strapped school districts across Kansas are finding an easy way to implement human resource-focused technology into their day-to-day operations.

“We wanted to provide a tool so school districts have the latest technology to make their job efficient and easier to handle. With this, rural districts can have an affordable opportunity, allowing them to be on a level playing field with larger school districts, ” says Bart Swartz, Coordinator of Administrative Services at Greenbush ESC.

Through this partnership, Kansas area school districts can simplify their hiring methods and have the ability to sign up for multiple online technologies.

Participating school districts have access to the following:

- *SchoolRecruiter™* from Netchemia: This web-based Applicant Tracking and Hiring Management Solution tool provides a way for school districts to attract and process a large amount of qualified candidates, while streamlining the hiring process. Applicants can upload their resume, add reference letters, attach letters of recommendation and cover letters and import reference check documentation. SchoolRecruiter allows districts to seamlessly upload the applications they receive through Kansas Education Employment Board (KEEB) and sync with both the Haberman Screening Interview and the AESOP substitute solution.

- *Star Teacher Pre-Screener from The Haberman Educational Foundation:* Districts can use this research-based pre-screening tool to review applicants online as a part of the application process. This provides school administrators an opportunity to interview teachers with the highest chance of success, increasing teacher quality, while decreasing employee turnover.
- *AESOP Substitute Solution from Frontline Placement Technologies:* This online system provides districts with an automated substitute teacher placement service that tracks and fills absences, evaluates substitutes and easily syncs with district business software all in one place. Substitutes can proactively search for jobs, and AESOP tracks all placement and absence information in real-time, eliminating paperwork.

For more information about The Greenbush Partnership, please contact Graham Forman at 800-490-9686 or [graham.forman@netchemia.com](mailto:graham.forman@netchemia.com).

#### **7. Data Zone® from EDmin provides formative assessment management**

EDmin and Mondo Publishing have teamed up to bring Data Zone®, Mondo Publishing's proven research-based K-5 assessment and intervention program for school districts in a secure, web-based environment. Data Zone helps teachers, schools and entire districts with the day-to-day management of formative reading assessment data and provides RTI tracking and resources.

Data Zone captures all formative assessments for pre, mid, post as well as all progress monitoring periods and presents the data in clear reporting formats. The program assigns the correct stage of reading development and prepares individual student profiles by organizing students into small groups for both skills and reading blocks. Reliable, valid and proven content is available for teachers that highlight daily instructional plans and resources as well as in two-week blocks.

If you've used Bookshop, Mondo's core reading program for K-5, you'll recognize the daily instructional focus sheets. Data Zone also provides curriculum resources. For more info, go to [www.mondopub.com](http://www.mondopub.com) and [www.edmin.com](http://www.edmin.com). For more information, please contact Sage Ann Scheer at [sscheer@edmin.com](mailto:sscheer@edmin.com) or at 619-253-1691.

#### **8. One Call Now announces enhanced Student Protect Package.**

Traditional school-to-parent communications services are fast, effective and simple to use when your administrators need to notify parents. Yet they fall short in being proactive and bi-directional. One Call Now announces the industry's first "total student protection" package that includes two critical student safety features, plus one to protect the school's mission itself.

First, Severe weather threatens schools and students every year. Over 2,000 students were killed or injured in and around schools last year due to lightning and severe weather striking when no one expected it. One Call Now states Weather-Protect is the only service that connects with real-time data from 8,500 weather stations across the country to instantly send proactive approaching lightning and weather warnings via voice and text to administrators, coaches, and transportation managers; providing adequate time to protect children.

Second, tragically, non-family members abducted more than 1,800 students last year. Many incidents occur en-route to or from school. One Call Now states it is the only service that can broadcast a community amber-alert message to every resident and business in the area. This message instantly reaches published and unpublished numbers plus most cell phones.

Third, school funding issues are a constant battle, and losing one threatens your educational mission. One Call Now states it is the only service that can and will donate calls to reach every voter in your community (not just parents) to help assure a successful election. Its award winning

process is proven to help pass needed funding votes. One Call Now donates its funds to the levy committee, not the school district.

To learn more about this exclusive PROTECT Package, exclusively from One Call Now, with no-charge unlimited service for AESA members through June 30, visit [www.onecallnow.com](http://www.onecallnow.com) or call 877-698-3262.

### **New Business Members**

#### **9. AESA welcomes new business members: Ascend Math, General ASP – AppliTrack, IQM2 Inc.**

Three new companies have joined the suite of business services providing resources for ESAs across the nation. Each of the companies has been interviewed by AESA and has determine each company fits its business model to the role of ESAs providing resources and services to ESAs and the school districts they serve. The companies are Ascend Math, General ASP – AppliTrack, and IQM2, Inc.

- Ascend Math provides targeted learning and assessment online. Ascend Math has a proven track record of students achieving double-digit gains on high stakes tests. We offer discounts on aggregate ESA purchases and this benefits the districts as well as the ESA's. Ascend Education has a "train the trainer model" that is available for ESA's as well as an on demand training module. The Ascend Math program is an intensive instructional math intervention aligned with your state's standards. It offers web delivered multi-modality instructional resources that includes an award-winning video teacher, who provides a one-on-one tutoring targeted at identified student needs. For more information contact Marjorie Briley, [mbriley@ascendmath.com](mailto:mbriley@ascendmath.com) or call 318 865-8232.
- AppliTrack is a web-based applicant tracking system from General ASP that will help your ESA or the school districts you serve identify and hire the best people. It currently serves over 1,100 school districts in 37 states, managing 2.7 million individual job applicants. AppliTrack provides 1-click advertisement of vacancies through its website [www.K12jobspot.com](http://www.K12jobspot.com). Its eForm Manager distributes, collects, and reviews electronic forms and reference surveys from the Applicant Dashboard. AppliTrack's Interview Scheduler automates scheduling, tracking, and process management. Its Applicant Watch List can flag existing, past, or future applicant names with special codes to easily identify them in your applicant pools. AppliTrack provides an audit trail of all emails that have been sent to applicants through AppliTrack, and easily accesses each application version submitted by applicants. It includes the uDesign Tool to create customized application pages, pre- and post-hire forms, and reference surveys. All of this is done through the Applicant Dashboard that also utilizes a NotePad and other tools in one easy-to-read screen. AppliTrack's Total Support Team approach provides assistance by email or phone. AppliTrack states its response time averages less and one minute. For more information contact Keith Westman, vice president of sales and marketing, at [keith@generalasp.com](mailto:keith@generalasp.com) or call 866 667-1227.
- IQM2's mission is to deliver the best and most reliable meeting management system software and service solutions to help the public sector improve efficiency, reduce costs, build citizen trust and comply with legislative directives. IQM2 prides itself on being able to work with all different sizes of organizations from small municipalities to large state and federal agencies. IQM2 has versioned its product suite so that customers only have to purchase features and functionality that they will use. The versions are:
  - **Basic** -- Easy to implement and use, this edition of the M2 Suite is a perfect choice if an agency has simple meeting management needs. If you are looking to obtain the benefit of automation, increased visibility and improved process this is the ideal solution the organization with lower population sizes and less complex requirements.

- **Professional** -- The Professional edition begins to incorporate workflow routing and other collaboration tools for those organizations with larger departmental sizes and initiative needs, whose meetings are becoming more complex and the time associated with preparation requires additional sophistication.
- **Advanced** -- The Advanced edition of the M2 Suite is structured to address the needs of larger organizations or those with many individuals and entities involved in the meeting management process. Increased need for visibility, more complex tracking, work planning, auditing, and bulk post meeting work processes necessary to ensure optimal efficiency and community involvement are integrated in this version.
- **Managed** -- The Managed Version is the pinnacle of Total Meeting Management. This edition includes all the modules and products in the Advanced edition and comes with IQM2's Companion Staff Service. The Companion Staff Service consists of a dedicated meeting management specialist who operates as a member of your staff and is responsible for all aspects of your meetings. This edition is designed for those organizations that desire to take advantage of the cost and efficiency benefits associated with a managed services model.

For more information about IQM2 call Bob Wrightson, vice president, at [bob@iqm2.com](mailto:bob@iqm2.com) or call 631 563-5005.

### **U.S. Department of Education**

#### **10. WWC report: Multiple Choice: Charter School Performance in 16 States**

The study examined the effect of charter school attendance on annual student achievement growth in math and reading. The study analyzed data on a large sample of students in grades 1 through 12 who were attending charter schools and traditional public schools in 16 states.

The study authors matched charter school students to similar students based on grade level, baseline test scores, subsidized lunch status, special education status, and demographic characteristics. The authors were able to match 84 percent of charter school students.

The authors examined changes in standardized reading and math test scores from one school year to the next. They estimated effects by comparing the test score changes of charter school students to those of matched students attending traditional public schools.

The study found that charter school students' reading and math test score growth was slightly lower than the test score growth of similar students attending traditional public schools. These differences were small, equivalent to moving a student from the 50th to the 49th percentile in math and less than that in reading. The study also found substantial variability in charter school performance; students in nearly one-fifth of the charter schools had higher test scores than students in traditional schools in the same education market while students in nearly one-third of the charter schools had lower test scores than students in traditional schools in the same education market.

The WWC has reservations about these results because charter students may have been different from traditional public school students in ways not controlled for in the analysis.

The report is available from:

<http://ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/publications/quickreviews/QRReport.aspx?QRID=137>

#### **11. Other recent What Works Clearinghouse Reports and Reviews**

- Intervention: Connected Mathematics Project (CMP).  
Available from: [http://ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/reports/middle\\_math/cmp/index.asp](http://ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/reports/middle_math/cmp/index.asp)

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- Patterns in the Identification of and Outcomes for Children and Youth With Disabilities.  
Available from: <http://ies.ed.gov/ncee/pubs/20104005/index.asp>
  - Processes and Challenges in Identifying Learning Disabilities Among English Language Learner Students in three New York State Districts  
Available from: <http://ies.ed.gov/ncee/edlabs/projects/project.asp?projectID=116>
  - Quick Review: Achievement Effects of Four Elementary School Math Curricula.  
Available from:  
<http://ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/publications/quickreviews/QRReport.aspx?QRID=117>
  - Quick Review: Evaluation of Experience Corps on Student Reading Outcomes.  
Available from:  
<http://ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/publications/quickreviews/QRReport.aspx?QRID=129>
  - Quick Review: Self Affirmation and Intervening to Close the Minority Achievement Gap.  
Available from:  
<http://ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/publications/quickreviews/QRReport.aspx?QRID=131>
  - School-site Administrators: A California County and Regional Perspective on Labor Market Trends.  
Available from: <http://ies.ed.gov/ncee/edlabs/projects/project.asp?ProjectID=234>
  - What Works Clearinghouse Rates Study of Benefits of Computer-Aided Instruction.  
Available from:  
<http://ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/publications/quickreviews/QRReport.aspx?QRID=125>
  - WWC Rates Study of Reading Comprehension Interventions for Fifth-graders.  
Available from:  
<http://ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/publications/quickreviews/QRReport.aspx?QRID=135>
  - WWC Rates Study of Widely-used Math Curricula.  
Available from:  
<http://ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/publications/quickreviews/QRReport.aspx?QRID=117>