Robots Go to School

Cody Heidschmidt, ESSDACK
Geoff Craven, CSIU
Technology Toy or Tool?

Double Robotics - Telepresence Robot – designed for telecommuting and execs in the technology industry

Remotely “drive” robot via Ipad or Chrome Web Browser

High-Tech Look – Easy to use – goes anywhere – only needs battery and Wi-Fi
Possible Uses

- Video/Robot Field Trips
- Home-bound Students
- Remote Subject Matter Expert Presenters
- Student Observation
- Virtual Campus Tours
- Nursing Home/Family Gatherings
- Cyberschool Alternative?
Why a Robot?

- More engaging than Skype, remote person feels more in control
- More mobility than a stationary unit
- Students are more receptive to the idea
- Easily shared among multiple students during the day
Will it work?
Another Example
Challenges

“Weird Factor” – Acceptance by Adults

Wi-Fi at School and Home/Hospital - School District Firewalls

Distraction in classroom, positioning of unit for viewing white board, etc.

Getting robot from one class to another – hallway safety, etc.

Responsibility for making sure device is ready to do, battery charged, etc.

Attention/Focus could promote student not wanting to return to school - Noise Level in classroom.

Cost of purchasing the unit and iPad device to run the unit.
Implementation

- Wi-Fi Coverage
- Supportive partners at home/hospital/school (both technology and human side)
- Demonstration of cost effectiveness and works as well (or better) than homebound instruction.
- Working Child Life Specialists to allow “sick” students and parents to use/allow device in local hospitals.
- Need to have a main contact person assigned for each part of the puzzle (ESA, School, Hospital, Parents, etc.)
Funding Sources

- “Rent to own” for school districts
- Assistive Technology Funds
- Local organizations, foundations, etc.
Next Steps/Future Services

- Video Field Trips
- Remote Presentations by SME
- Remote Speech Therapy Services (Tiny EYE, etc)
- Remote hall monitoring for outlying elementary schools.
- CyberSchool Alternative
In Active Use Today

1 HS Student, 2 Elem Students using robots to attend classes today since start of school in CSIU region alone

In PA – expanded to 3 additional ESAs (IUs)

Virtual participation and attendance in Professional Development Sessions

This is just the beginning....
How do I get my hands on one of these?

ESSDACK, CSIU

Also available Jan 1st through multi-state PEPPM bid.
Questions

Cody Heidschmidt – codyh@essdack.org
620-931-2523

Geoff Craven – gcraven@csiu.org
570-523-1155 Ext 2104