

About Dos Rios

What is the Dos Rios Virtual School District?

This site is a web based educational technology application created to improve the quality of teaching and learning for students in pre-service teacher education. The Dos Rios Virtual School District is a repository of REAL and simulated materials that might be found in actual PK-12 schools.

The Purpose of the Dos Rios Virtual School District

The intended purpose of the VSD is for pre-service students to understand how real life classrooms and a school district function by exploring, observing, and investigating teaching/learning applications and materials, and administrative applications and materials. Another intended outcome is the development of students' higher order thinking, problem solving and lifelong learning skills by creating high quality teaching applications for the VSD. For instance, in an instructional technology class, the teacher education student or learning team may be given the task of evaluating the VSD's technology plan to see if it meets state standards, discuss weaknesses, and provide solutions to problems.

The site may be used in multiple ways.

1. Use the case studies and pedagogies to teach pre-service education students.
2. For professional development for first year and other teachers.
3. Teacher in Residency Students.
4. Creating case studies based on the documents found in the DRVSD.
5. Exploring concepts integral to teacher education such as governance and student discipline.
6. Depositing your own relevant documents, pedagogies and case studies to be shared with other educators and education students.

You can access documents and the lessons in two ways:

- Through the menus: You can access the administration building and the schools located in the school district. From the school maps, you can locate the documents found in each relevant site in Dos Rios.
- Through the site map: The site map provides a listing of the pedagogies, case studies and relevant documents.

When using Dos Rios Virtual School District

- Roll your cursor over several of the images and image maps.
- The cursor will change to a hand, revealing a pop-up message or an area that can be clicked to bring up a window that has further information on it.

Who We Are

The DOS Rios Virtual School District was originally designed as part of an overall project funded by a 2000-2003 PT3 implementation grant, "Creating a Contextual, Field-Based Model for Training Future Teachers to Utilize Technology".

Goals of the PT3 Grant

Long Abstract (Goals)

The focus of "Creating a Contextual, Field-Based Model for Training Future Teachers to Utilize Technology" is to implement a comprehensive plan to prepare teacher education students at Colorado State University-Pueblo to use technology to improve the quality of PK-12 education. Although CSU-P has made significant gains in technology education during the past year, pre-service students have limited/uneven opportunities for technology application in field experiences and student teaching; few "real-world," innovative applications of technology are infused across the curriculum, and teacher education lacks a strong faculty development program to meet individual needs of faculty. Goals of the project include activities to:

1. Strengthen technology components in field experiences and student teaching
2. Integration of a cohort of PK-12 classroom-based teacher educators with expertise in technology into the teacher education programs
3. Development of a Virtual School District website and a series of constructivist learning applications for education classes
4. Implement an inexpensive, individualized professional development program for education faculty

An important component of the project is the development of partnerships with two high-need PK-12 school districts, one urban and one rural, as well as a for-profit corporation that will assist the project in providing technology to support instructional reform. Three types of outcomes will result from this partnership: changes in faculty use of technology, changes in the nature of the learning environment for USC students, and changes in the proficiency of pre-service students to use technology to solve problems, to work collaboratively, and to think critically and independently.

Original contributors to the Do Rios Virtual School District include Victoria Marquesen Ph.D., CO-Director of the former PT3 Grant and Associate Dean of the Colorado State University – Pueblo Teacher Education Program; Renee Drabier Ph.D., CO-Director of the former PT3 Grant and former Director of Information Technology Service at USC. Christine Sims, Ph.D., Physical Education, Faculty Contributor to Dos Rios Virtual School District and former Assistant Professor of Exercise Science, Health Promotion, and Recreation; and Michelle Escudier, Master of Science in Instructional Technology, Instructional Technology Specialist, Original Web Designer and Project Coordinator of the Dos Rios Virtual School District.

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