



BEYOND TEXTBOOKS

A Program of the Virginia Department of Education

About the Program

Beyond Textbooks was a small-scale pilot program designed to explore the technical, social, and policy implications of textbook alternatives. This project identified cost-effective models that blend the vetted, standards-based content and convenience of traditional textbooks with the engaging, dynamic, up-to-date content and resources afforded by the Web. Specifically, it examined new ways to access, organize, and deliver high-quality content using various platforms and tools, including the Apple iPad, and to understand the conditions necessary for successful implementation in schools.

Phase II focused on the design and development of model e-Learning Backpacks that included digital textbooks delivered on wireless, handheld, multipurpose computers with supporting resources, tools, and applications. This phase emphasized STEM areas (mathematics and its real-world applications specifically).

The evaluation component of each of the pilot projects is summarized in these reports.

The reports may be accessed at http://www.doe.virginia.gov/support/technology/technology_initiatives/learning_without_boundaries/beyond_textbooks/index.shtml.