

# More Scottsdale teachers getting laptops

The Scottsdale Unified School District has started distributing Hewlett-Packard Tablet laptops to 500 of its nearly 1,700 teachers. Every teacher will be trained to use them.

The district has installed new class-

room technology in 96 percent of its 31 schools.

Each classroom in the district has received an electronic white board, a document camera, DVD/TV/VCR tuner, an audio system and a ceiling-mounted pro-

jector.

The district purchased the technology with funds from a \$69.3 million capital override, passed in November 2007, with about \$33 million earmarked for technology improvements in Scottsdale schools.

— Alex Bloom,

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Tablet laptops like this one are being distributed to roughly a third of the teachers in the Scottsdale Unified School District. The laptops were purchased with funds from the district's 2007 capital override.



ALEX BLOOM/THE REPUBLIC

## TRAINING TEACHERS

"It's very exciting to see that so many of our educators are already using it in the classroom," said Larry Bloom, an instructional technology coach with the district. Bloom and four other teachers-on-assignment are training teachers throughout the district to get them up to speed. He also has recruited eighth-grade students at Mountainside Middle School to help.

"We are training our teachers so that (the technology is) not just going to be collecting dust, sitting in the classrooms," said Karen Beckvar, governing board president.

Ninety-eight percent of Scottsdale teachers have been trained on classroom technology. Those receiving laptops will be required to take at least 30 hours of training. Each Scottsdale teacher receiving a laptop will be required to create a classroom lesson, which the district will add to a district database accessible to Scottsdale teachers.

In June, the district spent \$9 million to accelerate its technology purchases. Scottsdale took out a loan with Baystone Financial Group, spending \$1.6 million over the next four years to pay off the \$9 million technology purchase.

Scottsdale bought the technology from CCS Presentation Systems of Scottsdale, which agreed to install all of the classroom enhancements by Thanksgiving.