National **E**ducational **C**omputing **C**onference

TITLE: Online Learning (Inc.) - 24 Hour Classrooms

Education in the Information Age will require finger tip access to electronic libraries, Email, and contemporary knowledge. The "textbook" is quickly being transformed into digital data.

The classroom can evolve rather than become extinction by maintaining its focus in the community. Computers linked to networks that are connected to other networks are not enough to achieve community involvement in the education of science and technology. Just as each community is unique so is the classroom. To enhance the classroom the BBS can be accessed 24 hours a day seven days a week, all year round. The School BBS can be the centre of information transferred that is completely controlled by the goals of each teacher.

Teacher empowerment ensures personalized pedagogy, current tutorials and tests.

Student assess information directly from the teacher any time, from any distance.

Parents can keep in touch with their child progress and teacher commentary.

Community has a feeling that the school is accommodating.

Administrators can keep the operation self-sustaining with a 1-900 number.

The hardware required is a computer and a modem.

Current 2400 Baud modems relatively inexpensive (i.e., 60$ U.S.)

BBS Software (IBM or MAC)
   •   advantageous to have GUI with a remote interface for user-friendliness.
   •   security easily set

Pedagogy
   •   long distant learning when teacher is taking down time.
   •   course materials can be set by teacher.
   •   parents notified daily of school / class activities.

Specific materials:
   •   IBM compatible 386
   •   2400 Baud Hayes Compatible Modem
   •   Clean phone line.

Problems:
   •   phone line single, no interference of other equipment, higher speed phone line.
   •   software bugs
   •   IBM / MAC

Programs:
   •   BBS Software

Measures used to determine success:
- involvement (parents, teachers, students, administration)
- log ons

Specific work related to prior work:
- Developing test banks
- Multimedia presentations on Environmental Concepts
- Environmental course BBS

Effect of technology on the educational process:
- empowerment
- continuous access and feedback

Successful and problematic aspects:
- First ever conducted at MRC

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