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FACTS:

Environmental Distance Learning (EDL)

www.edlonline.org

General Program Overview - EDL Program Facts

What is EDL?

One of the nation's most advanced, community-developed educational systems, interface and database design for teaching/learning with real time environmental data at the middle school and high school levels.

- A network of remote, real time environmental and weather sensors in Pinellas County, Florida
- An initiative of Pinellas County, Florida, the School Board of Pinellas County, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, St. Petersburg College, the Pinellas County Environmental Foundation and the Pinellas County Education Foundation

Additionally:

- EDL is an innovative approach to environmental management - and a means to educate and to promote environmental stewardship at the grass roots
- EDL is an advanced tool to meet the challenges of natural resource management and education in a highly urbanized community

Why is EDL Unique?

EDL is defined from other distance learning initiatives by:

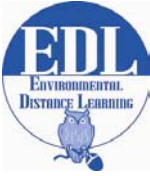
- An advanced *education development process* that grows EDL *from within* the local educational community
- EDL is developed - by and for - educators to meet the requirements and challenges of 21st century classroom education
- EDL is a community solution that teaches - *how to teach and how to learn* - using real time information
- The EDL program integrates advanced, web-based real time learning – with existing curricula
- EDL can be adapted for delivery in any community - anywhere

(continued)



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“Setting the Standard for Real Time Education”



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What are the Major Educational Features of EDL?

General features

- EDL correlates with curriculum requirements set by the state of Florida and national standards
- EDL is cross-curricular
- EDL delivers live environmental data instantly
- EDL is available from anywhere any time

For Teachers

- Provides lesson plans and students with interactive learning activities
- Create lesson plans on the web – and save them to a personal storage space
- Communicate and coordinate class activities – all online
- Assign lessons to classes – all online
- Review and grade student work – all online
- Provides online collaboration between teachers and students
- Print graphs and reports for CLS

For Students

- Provides a safe email environment to contact a teacher
- Collaborate with other students in the class – all online
- Submit assignments to teachers
- Monitor grades received through the grading period



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General Program Background, Mission and Vision

I. EDL Program Development

Perhaps more than anywhere else in the state, Pinellas County benefits from sustained, highest-quality management of natural resources. Public education is integral for effective natural resource management and conservation in a highly urbanized community. The development of EDL addresses a need and opportunity to advance public understanding, awareness and connection to the County's natural resources – while providing a database of environmental information for use in public land management.

New Stewardship: Today, through the real time learning experience of EDL, educators and students are more connected than ever to their environment – a new generation of stewards for Florida's natural resources.

II. EDL Mission, Vision and Value

Mission

- EDL provides advanced public education and information to support environmental stewardship and public land management in Florida's most densely populated county

Vision

- In Pinellas County, quality of life including the allure for economic development and tourism depend on effectively managed and sustained natural resources
- EDL reflects the requirements of a highly urbanized community to foster and sustain a public awareness and commitment to natural resource management

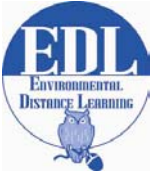
Value

- EDL is model for public service consistent with the demands of urban natural resource education and management
- EDL provides educational outreach for Pinellas County Education and Interpretive Centers (exhibits, learning tools, online resources)
- EDL drives awareness, connection and stewardship of Pinellas' natural resources
- EDL is a public education model prepared for application anywhere else in the nation



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Program Status and FY 02-03 Development Strategy

EDL Growth Strategy

EDL is a *system* of Internet distance learning education designed for application in Pinellas County – or anywhere in the nation. Growth of EDL beyond Pinellas County is governed by the following FY 02-03 development strategy and requirements:

Beta Test Year

FY 02-03 is a very important year for EDL. As planned, FY 02-03 is the first, full beta test of EDL in Pinellas County classrooms. A premium is therefore placed upon continued training and on refinement of the EDL program through feedback from teachers and students.

Activities

- Develop FY 02-03 Pinellas EDL program success to meet the needs/goals for Florida classroom education. Support national and state standards of education.
- Advance integration of EDL into Pinellas classrooms
- Advance application of EDL in non-Pinellas classrooms
- Advance use/application of EDL through formal teacher training
- Advance EDL visibility through presentations and workshops at key educational conferences such as the Florida Educational Technology Conference (FETC) February 4 – 6, 2003.
- Advance value and application of EDL through systematic refinement of systems based on teacher/student feedback
- Advance visibility and application of EDL at the national level through formal presentations to federal government agencies such as NOAA, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, USGS and with relevant non-profit environmental and education organizations.



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