

NEWS RELEASE



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Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction Receives \$50,000 Grant From the Verizon Foundation for Thinkfinity Learning Initiative

*Verizon Thinkfinity.org Provides Teachers, Parents, Students and After-School
Programs With Thousands of Engaging Educational Resources*

MADISON, Wis. – A \$50,000 grant from the Verizon Foundation will enable the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction to continue to raise awareness and [train teachers](#) to use the free educational resources available on Verizon Thinkfinity.

The Thinkfinity Web site (www.thinkfinity.org) contains tens of thousands of free, engaging [educational resources](#) that make learning fun, including lesson plans, in-class activities and educational videos that can be found quickly and searched by grade level, keyword and subject.

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Verizon Thinkfinity resources are aligned to state and national standards and offer elementary through high school teachers resources across eight academic disciplines, from science to English to mathematics, to improve student achievement.

With the grant, the Verizon Foundation has now invested \$150,000 with the Department of Public Instruction to provide innovative online resources such as K-12 lesson plans, educational videos and professional development for teachers throughout Wisconsin.

“The department is very pleased to be the recipient of this grant from the Verizon Foundation,” said Wisconsin State Superintendent Tony Evers. “This partnership supports our goal of promoting growth of critical 21st century skills and core academic competencies among our students, educators and community members so all are successful in today’s global society.”

Paul Fuglie, Verizon state president-Wisconsin public affairs, policy and communications, said, “Our children are growing up in a world where they communicate, learn and share ideas digitally. Online technology has had a tremendous impact on our society, and its role will continue to grow with further advances.

“We are proud to partner with the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction to provide teachers with free, engaging resources to share with their students.”

In addition to providing standards-based resources from the nation’s leading educational organizations, Verizon Thinkfinity also offers a comprehensive professional development program that allows teachers to sign up for free online or face-to-face training to learn how to make the most of Verizon Thinkfinity tools.

Content for Verizon Thinkfinity is provided through a partnership between the Verizon Foundation and 11 of the nation’s leading organizations in the fields of education and literacy: the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Council for Economic Education, International Reading Association, The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts,

National Center for Family Literacy, National Endowment for the Humanities, National Council of Teachers of English, National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, National Geographic Society, ProLiteracy and the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History.

The Verizon Foundation, supports the advancement of literacy and K-12 education through its free educational Web site, Thinkfinity.org, and fosters awareness and prevention of domestic violence. In 2009, the Verizon Foundation awarded more than \$67.5 million in grants to nonprofit agencies in the U.S. and abroad. It also matched the charitable donations of Verizon employees and retirees, resulting in an additional \$24.4 million in combined contributions to nonprofits. Through Verizon Volunteers, one of the nation's largest employee volunteer programs, Verizon employees and retirees have volunteered more than 5 million hours of community service since 2000. For more information on the foundation, visit www.verizonfoundation.org.

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