



National School Boards Association

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Hand-held device gives teachers instant feedback

Teachers can test students instantly and repeatedly throughout a class to ensure that students are paying attention and that learning is taking place, with a “personal response device” from a company called GTCO CalComp. Teachers also can use the device to take attendance and give quizzes.

Each student uses a wireless, hand-held transmitter to respond to the teacher’s multiple-choice questions. The signals are intercepted by a receiver connected to the teacher’s computer. Software keeps track of each student’s answer and produces graphs showing aggregate results. The teacher can then project the answers on a screen anonymously.

“It’s a marvelous prompt for classroom discussion,” says Michael Oliphant, a physics teacher at Millis (Mass.) High School, who received a grant to bring the system to his class. “It gives students greater comfort in the classroom because they see many students giving different responses.”

Contact: Michael Oliphant, (508) 376-7000, or visit www.gtcocalcomp.com. ■

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