



MOS 2010 ANNOUNCEMENT

Site License

Certification More Affordable in Secondary Education with Microsoft Office Specialist Classroom License

As the United States treads through a recession, the nation's schools have borne the brunt of budget cuts in almost every state. A recent American Association of School Administrators survey of 453 school districts in 45 states found that one-third of the districts are looking at eliminating summer school this year. Fourteen percent are considering going to four-day weeks, and 62 percent anticipate increasing class size next year.

Many educational product and service providers are working to create affordable options for institutions with very little money to spend on anything beyond teachers and textbooks.

Certification is one area that might suffer, but Microsoft and Certiport have come up with a money-saving solution. They are now offering education customers a one-year Microsoft Office Specialist Classroom License for a flat fee to streamline tight budgets and allow more students to certify. With the new Classroom License, secondary education institutions can conduct unlimited Microsoft® Office Specialist (MOS) 2007 exams in one classroom with up to 30 computers.

Previously, academic institutions paid a per-test fee for the MOS 2007 exam. The new license allows schools to streamline the approval process and certify more students at a lower cost.

"The Classroom License will allow secondary education institutions to expand and implement testing across all of their programs and courses, instead of having to limit the offering due to budget constraints," explains Quinn Sutton, senior vice president, Certiport.

Oak Park High School in Southern California recently took advantage of the MOS Classroom License to ease budget pains while continuing to prepare their students for advanced education and the workplace.

When computer technology instructor Erik Amerikaner was hired in 2007, his plan to implement a Microsoft® Office certification program hit a funding roadblock.

While searching for economical solutions that might fit into a tight school budget, Amerikaner helped solidify an articulation agreement with nearby Moorpark College to accept Microsoft Word and PowerPoint® certification for college credit and priority registration for Oak Park graduates. With administration support and a new articulation agreement in place, Amerikaner turned to the new Classroom License offering from Certiport to help ease the budgeting pains.

Amerikaner got his software upgrade and Microsoft Office certification program under way last fall. He has helped certify more than 300 students between Oak Park and his last school, and there's little chance of him slowing down now, especially when he's seen the benefit to students.

"They're expected to come out of high school with basic computer technology proficiency, and the Microsoft Office certification proves that," Amerikaner said.

For more information, contact Brenda Armstrong 801.602.0305, visit www.certiport.com or ISTE booth 2311.

