



PORTS

2011/2012 School Year Statistical Report

Parks Online Resources for Teachers and Students

INTRODUCTION

The Parks Online Resources for Teachers and Students (PORTS) program is a distance interpretation and education program developed as a collaborative effort between public schools and California State Parks. This program uses the power of videoconferencing and California's K-12 High Speed Network (HSN) to deliver academic content standards-based programs in the context of California State Parks. PORTS is coordinated by the Interpretation and Education Division. Individual PORTS distance learning sites are operated by the seven participating state park districts.

This report includes statistics from the 2011/2012 school year, the seventh school year since the inception of PORTS. Through the use of an online tracking system PORTS staff has compiled statistics for the 2011/2012 school year. All statistics are approximate.

ANNUAL STATEWIDE STATISTICS

2011/2012 Total Number of Students (average of 32 students/class)

51,900

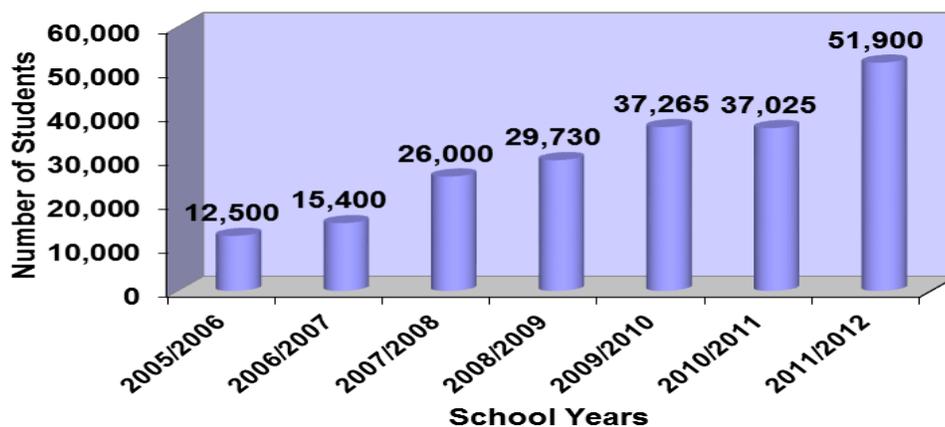
2011/2012 Total Number of Programs (one class per interpretive program)

1,640

Annual Comparison of Program Numbers

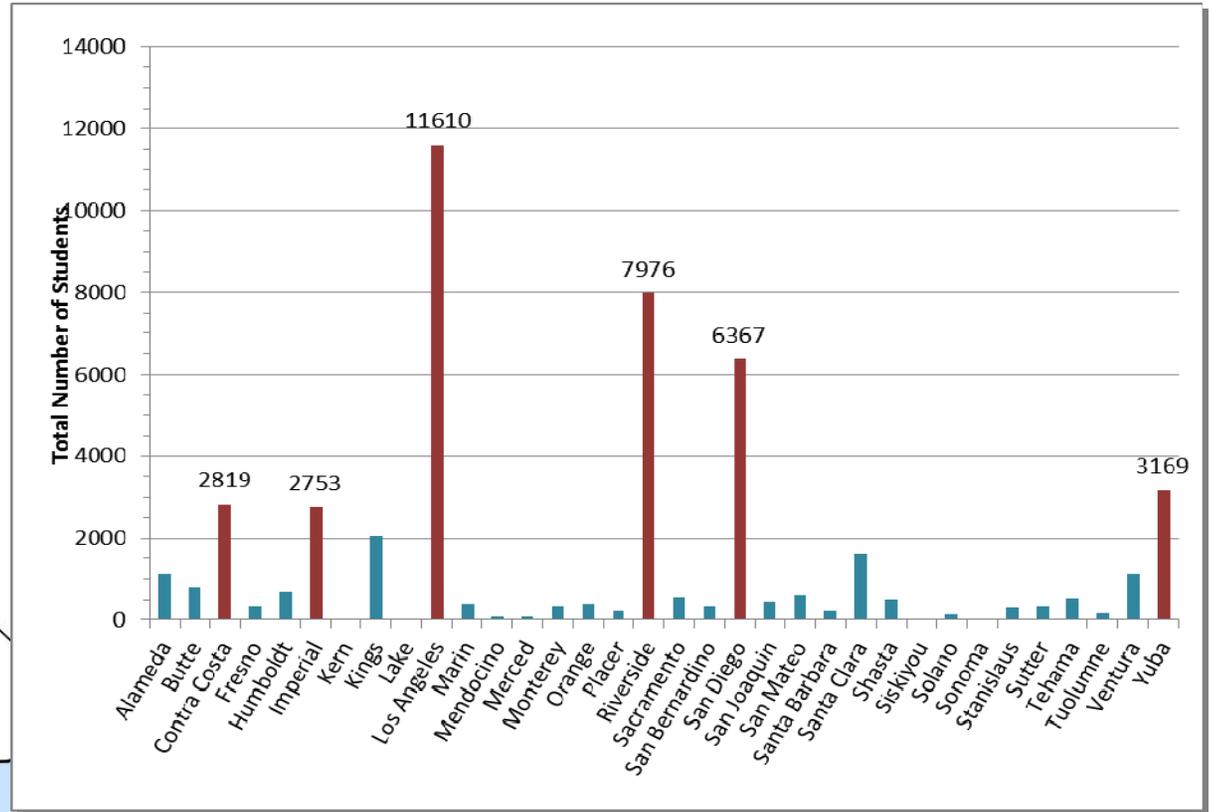
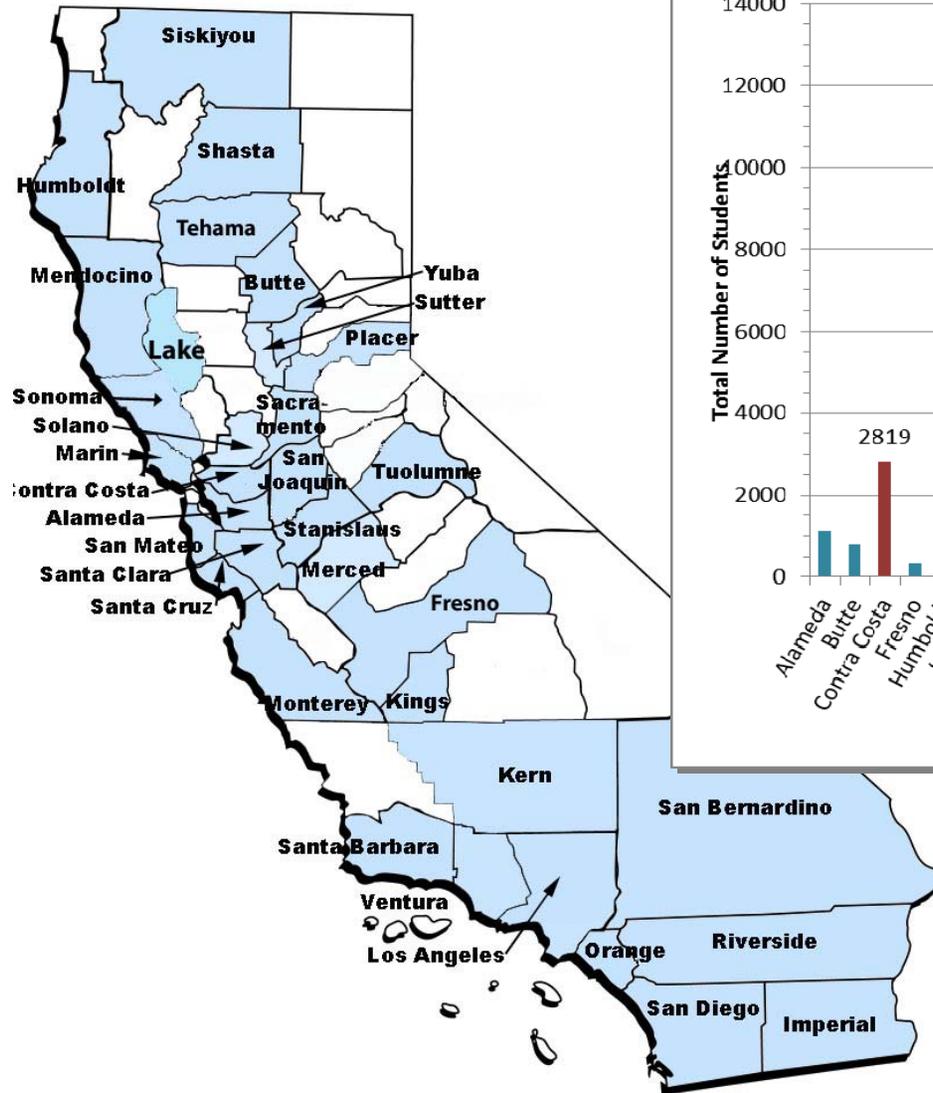
| | |
|-----------|-------|
| 2005/2006 | 375 |
| 2006/2007 | 460 |
| 2007/2008 | 910 |
| 2008/2009 | 1,000 |
| 2009/2010 | 1,158 |
| 2010/2011 | 1,185 |

Annual Comparison of Student Numbers



PARTICIPATING COUNTIES

The PORTS distance learning program focuses on California’s K-12 educational community. During the 2011/2012 school year PORTS programs were delivered to schools in 35 of the 58 California counties.



CALIFORNIA SCHOOL DISTRICTS

PORTS served 87 school districts in 2010/2011. For the 2011/2012 school year, 98 California school districts participated. The return rate for school districts for the 2011/2012 school year is 80%. Twenty-eight school districts were new to PORTS this year.

| | |
|--|---|
| Arcata School District | Lemoore Union Elementary School District |
| Armona Union School District | Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District |
| Banning Unified School District | Loleta Union Elementary School District |
| Berryessa Union School District | Lompoc Unified School District |
| Borrego Springs Unified School District | Los Angeles Unified School District |
| Brawley Elementary School District | Los Banos Unified School District |
| Butte County Office of Education | Los Molinos Unified School District |
| Calexico Unified School District | Manzanita Elementary School District |
| Calipatria Unified School District | Martinez Unified School District |
| Cardiff School District | Mendocino County Office of Education |
| Carlsbad Unified School District | Menifee Union Elementary School District |
| Cascade Elementary School District | Milpitas Unified School District |
| Castro Valley Unified School District | Modesto City Schools Districts |
| Central Valley Homeschool | Monterey Peninsula Unified School District |
| Cinnabar Elementary School District | New Haven Unified School District |
| Colton Joint Unified School District | Norwalk-LaMirada Unified School District |
| Columbia Elementary School District | Novato Unified School District |
| Conejo Valley Unified School District | Oakland Archdiocese |
| Corning Union Elementary School District | Ontario-Montclair Elementary School District |
| Del Mar Union School District | Orange Unified School District |
| Desert Sands Unified School District | Oroville City Elementary District |
| El Centro School District | Oxnard School District |
| Elk Grove Unified School District | Pacific Union Elementary School District |
| Encinitas Union School District | Palermo Union School District |
| Eureka City School District | Panama Buena Vista Union Elementary School District |
| Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District | Patterson Joint Unified School District |
| Fallbrook Union Elementary School District | Pioneer Union Elementary School District |
| Fremont Unified School District | Poway Unified School District |
| Fresno County Office of Education | Rancho Santiago Community College School District |
| Glendale Unified School District | Redwood City Elementary School District |
| Hanford Elementary School District | Ripon Unified School District |
| Hawthorne School District | Roseville City Elementary School District |
| Heber School District | Sacramento City Unified School District |
| Humboldt County Office of Education | San Diego City Schools |
| Hydesville School District | San Juan Unified School District |
| Imperial Unified School District | San Marcos Unified School District |
| Island Union Elementary School District | San Ramon Valley Unified School District |
| Jamestown Union School District | Santa Clara Unified School District |
| Kentfield School District | Santee School District |
| Kings Canyon Unified School District | Scotts Valley Unified School District |
| Kings River-Hardwick Joint Union School District | Sonora Union Elementary School District |
| Kit Carson Union School District | South Bay Union School District |

California State Parks PORTS Program—2011/2012 School Year

Klamath-Trinity Joint Unified School District
Konocti Unified School District
La Habra City School District
Lafayette School District
Lancaster School District
Laytonville Unified School District

Stockton City Unified School District
Temecula Valley Unified School District
Ventura Unified School District
Vista Unified School District
Walnut Creek School District
Wheatland Elementary School District
Yuba City Unified School District

STATES OUTSIDE OF CALIFORNIA

During the 2011/2012 school year PORTS programs were delivered to 3,720 students in nine states across the country. In the 2010/2011 school year 2,830 out-of-state students participated. We are working to lower the program offerings to out-of-state schools as the demand for PORTS programs by California schools continues to increase and our resources are decreasing due to budget cuts.

These are the states that participated in 2011/2012:

Florida
Georgia
Missouri
New Jersey
New York

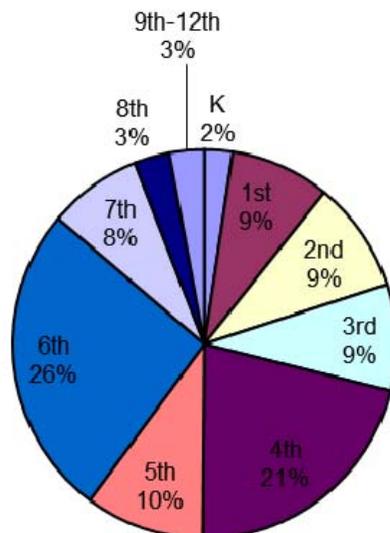
Ohio
Pennsylvania
Virginia
Wisconsin

PARTICIPATING TITLE I SCHOOL STATISTICS

A total of 223 individual schools in California participated in PORTS programs in the 2011/2012 school year. Of the 223 schools, 160 qualified as Title I schools as defined by federal standards. More than 60 percent of PORTS programs were delivered to Title I schools in California.

STUDENT BY GRADE LEVEL

PORTS programs served all K-12 grade levels during the 2011/2012 school year. The majority of the students served were in grade levels first through seventh.



PORTS DISTANCE LEARNING SITE STATISTICS

For the 2011/2012 school year PORTS programs were delivered from seven individual distance learning sites.

Students per PORTS Distance Learning Site

| | 2005/2006 | 2006/2007 | 2007/2008 | 2008/2009 | 2009/2010 | 2010/2011 | 2011/2012 |
|----------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Anza-Borrego | 5,400 | 7,446 | 8,390 | 8,750 | 7,360 | 8,840 | 13,900* |
| Seacliff | 5,550 | 5,030 | 6,170 | 9,220 | 9,570 | 8,860 | 8,200 |
| Crystal Cove | 1,100 | 2,103 | 5,510 | 5,750 | 7,440 | 7,375 | 6,350 |
| State Capitol** | 255 | 490 | 1,310 | 2,820 | 4,300 | 0 | 0 |
| Columbia | 0 | 0 | 980 | 2,140 | 2,940 | 3,535 | 4,600 |
| North Coast Redwoods | 0 | 0 | 0 | 740 | 5,360 | 6,760 | 8,630 |
| Hearst Castle | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 290 | 1,435 | 1,905 |
| Baldwin Hills | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 8,150 |

*A Crystal Vision Grant from the Employee Community Fund of Boeing California allowed the Anza-Borrego programs to be expanded and offered from both the green screen studio and satellite truck.

**The State Capitol did not offer programs this school year due to the inability to fill the PORTS Interpreter position.

Anza-Borrego Desert Summary

The Anza-Borrego PORTS program was delivered using a chroma-key studio housed at the Stout Research Center inside Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. This program was in full operation and delivered by a State Park Interpreter I, Permanent Intermittent and a seasonal Senior Park Aide. The funding for this position and program is primarily through District funds and the Anza-Borrego Desert Foundation. In addition, the program received a \$50,000 grant from the Employees Community Fund of Boeing California to support the studio operation and expand the use of the satellite vehicle. This year the Anza-Borrego PORTS Program delivered presentations to over 13,900 students.

Some highlights for Anza-Borrego Desert PORTS include:

- Use of the satellite vehicle to deliver programs March through May 2012. Over 4,000 students, many in southern California (65%) or from Title I schools (84%), were served with this program, dubbed “Science in California State Parks”
- Creation of digital media, including images, videos, and additional web curriculum

Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook

Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook PORTS program started full operation in September 2011. The presentations are primarily delivered using chroma-key technology. The studio was in operation five days a week, and was utilized for many afternoon and Saturday professional development/conference sessions. The program was staffed by the on-site State Park Interpreter I, with assistance from a seasonal Park Interpretive Specialist. In October 2011, the 5th grade Weather and Climate Unit of Study launched on the PORTS Website. This school year, approximately 8,150 students participated in programs from Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook. Approximately 4,900 of these students came to the program as a direct result of the Classroom Videoconference Made Easy (CVME) Training Program.

Some highlights of the school year include:

- Installing infrastructure for wireless mesh network for mobile application
- Purchasing and equipping mobile videoconferencing solution. The Baldwin Hills Advanced Technology (BHAT) Mobile will allow interpreters to videoconference from a number of different sites around the park.
- Staff participation in iPad for Education Training and use of iPads during live videoconference as a digital media source
- Development of interactive Google Map to track school participation

California State Capitol Summary

The State Capitol did not offer programs this school year as the PORTS Interpreter position was not filled.

Columbia Summary

The Columbia PORTS program partnered with Cassina Continuation High School for a fifth year to use their green screen studio. Programs were delivered four days a week by a seasonal Senior Park Aide. This school year the Columbia PORTS Program delivered programs to approximately 4,600 students.

Some highlights of the school year for Columbia include:

- A K-12 High Speed Network (HSN) grant of \$130,000, received in 2010, allowed park staff to install a wireless mesh network, green screen studio and equip a mobile PORTS vehicle at the state park.
- Through the grant, a Senior Park Aide position was funded to allow programs to be expanded from one day to four days a week.
- A mobile videoconferencing solution was purchased and equipped. The mobile vehicle will allow interpreters to videoconference from a number of different sites within the park.
- In partnership with CSU Sacramento History Education Department, a history teacher intern developed a 3rd grade unit of study on Gold Rush communities during the summer.

Crystal Cove Summary

The Crystal Cove PORTS program continues to use the “EduGator” roving videoconference vehicle. The program was in operation three days a week (Tuesday-Thursday) and is staffed by a State Park Interpreter I, Permanent Intermittent. The funding for this position and program is primarily through District funds and from the Crystal Cove Alliance. The program also received a donation of a high-definition videoconferencing unit from Polycom in September 2011. This year the Crystal Cove PORTS Program delivered presentations to approximately 6,350 students.

Highlights from this year include:

- Installation of a high-definition underwater camera and videoconferencing unit
- Creation of an indoor videoconferencing location in the Education Commons of the Historic District
- Moved all PORTS-related equipment into Historic District garage space

Hearst Castle Summary

In its second year of operation, the Hearst San Simeon State Historic Monument (Hearst Castle) PORTS program delivered videoconference programs solely from a studio using chroma-key technology. A State Park Interpreter I, Permanent-Intermittent provided programs three to four days a week. This year we delivered programs to 1,905 students.

Some highlights of the school year for Hearst Castle include:

- Programs were predominately delivered to 6th grade students focusing on Ancient Civilizations.
- There was an increase of more than fifty percent of students served from last year, illustrating both interest and demand for the program is on the rise.
- The online unit of study is being evaluated for effectiveness and will be improved based on feedback over the summer.
- Plans for a Hearst Castle promotional PORTS video are being discussed with staff for next school year.

North Coast Redwoods Summary

In its third full year of operation, the North Coast Redwoods PORTS studio delivered programs to approximately 8,630 students. The program was in operation five days a week and staffed by a seasonal Park Interpretive Specialist. Funding for the position was provided by the Humboldt County Office of Education.

Some highlights for North Coast Redwoods include:

- A new Park Interpretive Specialist was hired and trained.
- Park staff created a promotional video highlighting PORTS and the North Coast Redwoods program, along with a series of videos on state park careers.
- Park staff partnered with Humboldt County Office of Education to pursue the goals of the Ed-Venture program, which benefits economic and educational growth in Humboldt and Del Norte counties.

Seacliff Summary

The Seacliff PORTS studio solely delivered videoconference programs using chroma-key technology. The studio was in operation four days a week and staffed by a seasonal Senior Park Aide. This school year approximately 8,200 students received interpretive programs delivered from the Seacliff PORTS studio.

Some highlights of the school year for Seacliff include:

- The network line at the Seacliff Studio was switched to Comcast to provide a faster, more consistent internet connection.
- A seasonal Senior Park Aide was shifted to the PORTS program and trained.

CONFERENCE/PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TRAININGS

This school year PORTS Staff delivered approximately twenty-one professional development trainings to over 400 teachers and school administrators. PORTS staff presented at twelve educational conferences throughout the state. The Classroom Videoconferencing Made Easy (CVME) Training Program, coordinated through Computer Using Educators (CUE) and funded by the Toyota USA Foundation, trained over 200 participants in Los Angeles-area schools and equipped teachers, technology specialists, and administrators with videoconferencing equipment.

SOCIAL MEDIA

PORTS is engaged in social media on Facebook. The PORTS Facebook page is a media tool that helps keep followers abreast of current events with the PORTS Program and is a means of soliciting input from friends and colleagues. Find us on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/California-State-Parks-PORTS-Distance-Learning-Program/197247705677>.

EQUIPMENT LOAN PROGRAM

While we continue to loan videoconference equipment to schools we are reducing the level of this service to schools due to budget cuts and travel restrictions. There are also more affordable alternatives for videoconference machines allowing more schools to purchase the equipment.

PORTS TEACHER SURVEY

The Department uses a standardized School Group Program Evaluation (SGPE) for school group interpretive programs throughout the state. Three years ago, PORTS staff created a hybrid online version of the school group evaluation, which incorporates many of the key questions on the standard SGPE along with new questions that better serve the needs of the PORTS program. The online PORTS Teacher Survey was sent out in the fall and spring to teachers and school site coordinators. We received over 180 responses this school year.

The questions on the teacher survey examine the program's overall usability; the relevance of its instructional materials; the effectiveness of its live presenters; the efficiency of scheduling and logistics; and the technology tools and infrastructure in increasing student knowledge and appreciation of resources protected by California State Parks.

A overall summary of the PORTS Teacher Survey:

- 79% of participants gave PORTS an A grade for “Overall Program Experience”
- 78% of participants gave PORTS an A grade for “Videoconference Presentation”
- 51% of participants said they used the PORTS online lessons; 58% of those gave the “Online Lessons” an A grade
- 76% of participants gave PORTS an A grade for “Scheduling Process and Logistics”
- Ninety-five respondents were able to take their class on a field trip, 24% visited a state park including:

| | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|
| Crystal Cove SP | Cuyamaca Rancho SP | California State Railroad Museum |
| Torrey Pines SR | Humboldt Redwoods SP | Marshall Gold Discovery SHP |
| Great Valley Grasslands SP | San Juan Bautista SHP | |
| Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook | Empire Mine SHP | |
| Anza-Borrego Desert SP | Folsom Powerhouse SHP | |
| Columbia SHP | Ano Nuevo SR | |

SUMMARY

In the 2011/2012 school year, PORTS continued to maintain its status within the public education community as a quality educational program, and was able to expand to a number of new school districts.

A few notable occurrences during the 2011/2012 school year were:

- The PORTS program at Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook became fully operational, and programming expanded at Columbia SHP. Programming at Anza-Borrego Desert SP also expanded through the offering of consistent programs this spring using the PORTS satellite vehicle. Grant funding made possible the expansions by helping to cover personnel salaries.
- Partnerships continued to be a major factor in the success of PORTS. One example of how partnerships benefit both California State Parks and the educational community involved the K-12 High Speed Network (HSN) designating a high-definition Codian Bridge specific for PORTS. Schools connected to the PORTS sites through the Codian Bridge instead of dialing the sites directly, thereby reducing many of the technology/firewall issues experienced by schools in the past.
- Through outside funding from private industry and grants, some of the PORTS sites were able to upgrade to high-definition videoconference equipment with built-in chroma-key technology eliminating the need for much of the peripheral equipment previously required.

- The success of the Classroom Videoconferencing Made Easy (CVME) training program for Los Angeles-area teachers is allowing PORTS to reach a demographic audience the Department has sought for decades.
- Feedback received formally from the educational community via the PORTS Teacher Survey and informally through daily contact with teachers, administrators, and technology educational professionals continues to be overwhelmingly supportive and positive.

LOOKING FORWARD

The recent gains in both numbers and diversity of programs have been due in large measure to outside funding. We hope to maintain or increase this trend in the future; however, with the possibility of departmental cuts it is an uncertain future for the participating park districts. Grant funding received in the last two years is slated to end either this summer or within the upcoming year, which will result in a drop in program numbers unless additional funding is acquired. PORTS will continue to work with park districts to garner and provide necessary support for each PORTS site to provide the highest level and quality of programming possible.

Though the immediate future of funding for the programs' infrastructure, training, and personnel is extremely uncertain, we hope to provide programs for more than 45,000 students in the 2012/2013 school year.