

[BUYER'S GUIDE]

Presentation Tools

BY BARD WILLIAMS

THERE ARE MANY WAYS FOR SCHOOLS TO DISPLAY and share information from desktop, laptop, and handheld computers. Although the solutions can be expensive, prices continue to fall. This guide will help you sort through the options and decide which product might be best for your school or dis-

trict's needs. The chart does not list complete product lines; many vendors have additional models that might be appropriate for your situation. The items listed here represent a selection of products appropriate for educational uses. All prices are subject to change.

PROJECTORS

PROS: Most projectors connect easily to computers and can project a large image.

CONS: The majority require dimming lights in the classroom and for all content to be on the computer.

COMPANY	PRODUCT	FEATURES	THE PLUSES	COST
Canon www.canonprojectors.com	LV-521	3-year warranty; 2000 ANSI lumens; 400:1 contrast ratio; SVGA; silent; 6.4 lbs.	Produce theater-sized images, even in classroom settings	\$1,999
Dukane www.dukane.com	ImagePro 7100HC	5-year warranty; 2000:1 contrast ratio; 1100 ANSI lumens; SVGA; 6.8 lbs; 3:4 or 16:9 display	High-contrast screen; latest digital processor	\$1,295
	ImagePro 8039B	5-year warranty; 400:1 contrast ratio; 1400 ANSI lumens; SVGA; digital keystone correction; 5.9 lbs.	Extensive feature set in mid-range projector	\$1,395
	ImagePro 8755A	5-year warranty; 1800 ANSI lumens; XGA; silent; 6 lbs.	Quiet; bright XGA projector	\$1,895
Epson www.epson.com	PowerLite S1 projector	1200 ANSI lumens; 400:1 contrast ratio; SVGA; 7 lbs.	A bright low-end projector	\$999
	PowerLite 53c projector	1700 ANSI lumens; 500:1 contrast ratio; SVGA; 6.4 lbs.	A bright mid-range projector	\$1,784
	PowerLite 73c projector	1500 ANSI lumens; 500:1 contrast ratio; XGA; 6.4 lbs	Very bright; lightweight	\$1,994



[BUYER'S GUIDE]

(Projectors continued)

COMPANY	PRODUCT	FEATURES	THE PLUSES	COST
InFocus www.infocus.com	X1	1100 ANSI lumens; SVGA; 6.8 lbs.	High contrast and low bulb-replacement cost for low-end projector	\$999
	LP240	1000 ANSI lumens; SVGA; 5.78 lbs.	Centralized management	\$1,399
	LP250	1300 ANSI lumens; XGA; 5.78 lbs.	Centralized management	\$1,899
	LP530	2000 ANSI lumens; XGA; 5.7 lbs.	Bright XGA projector	\$2,799
Hewlett-Packard www.hp.com	HP vp6110	1500 ANSI lumens; 2000:1 contrast ratio; 6.7 lbs.	Bright projector; low weight	\$1,299
	HP vp6120	2000 ANSI lumens; 2000:1 contrast ratio; 6.7 lbs.	Very bright; low weight	\$1,943
Toshiba www.toshiba.com	TLP-S10U	1200 ANSI lumens; less than 5 lbs.	Low cost; high brightness/contrast; very mobile	\$999

HANDHELD PRESENTATION SYSTEMS

PROS: Most systems are affordable, lightweight, quick to set up, and feature slide-presentation capability.

CONS: Handheld projection adaptors require a projector.

COMPANY	PRODUCT	FEATURES	THE PLUSES	COST
Margi www.margi.com/education	Presenter-to-Go	XGA; generates slides from Word, Excel, PowerPoint; works with Palm, Sony Clie, Kyocera Smartphone, Pocket PC, and Windows CE devices	Great value	\$179
Portsmith www.portsmith.com	Pitch Solo - PS6U1V	VGA; supports Palm OS 4.0 and higher, and Pocket PC 2002/2003 via USB; wireless or USB connection keeps expansion slot free for storing presentations or other data; one model for all handhelds	Very powerful	\$250
	Pitch Duo - PS6B1V	Same as Solo; either wired or Bluetooth (wireless) connection	Wireless solution	\$280



[BUYER'S GUIDE]

DOCUMENT CAMERAS (VISUALIZERS)

PROS: Visualizers are easy to use and don't require computers. They can display 3D and 'brought-in' objects.

CONS: They require projectors or large monitors and can't display computer content. Less expensive units have lower resolution.

COMPANY	PRODUCT	FEATURES	THE PLUSES	COST
AVerMedia www.aver.com	AVerVision 110	1/3" 410K pixel color CCD image sensor; 3.9 lbs.; includes microscopic adapter, composite, and S-video output; mic input and audio output; 2-year warranty	Low-cost portable	\$500; contact dealer for education price
	AVerVision 300	1/3" 850K pixel color CCD image sensor with 8x digital zoom & pan; supports up to 1024 x 768 VGA & DVI output; 3.9 lbs. with expandable, 22" mechanical arm; 3-year warranty	Great image quality; portable	\$1,000; contact dealer for education price
Dukane www.dukane.com	Camera 101	4 lbs., 3 oz.; 542 x 542 pixel array	Low cost; simple to set up and use	\$306
Elmo www.elmoussa.com/presentation	EV-200 Ultra-Portable	Focus-free; analog visual presenter; 3 lbs; NTSC; S video out	Light unit; focus-free makes it easy to use	\$599 approx. education price
	HV-100XG Ultra-Portable	Focus-free; digital visual presenter; 3 lbs; RGB switcher for PC interface	High image quality; portable	\$850 approx. education price
	EV-2000AF Full-Featured Desktop	Analog; rotating head; 12X optical zoom w/2x extender	Full-featured option	\$1,299 approx. education price

INTERACTIVE PLASMA DISPLAYS

PROS: Interactive plasma displays can be used in bright rooms, are fairly lightweight, and can be attached to a wall. They can display document camera or computer output and don't require calibration because sensors are attached to the display.

CONS: They are very expensive.

COMPANY	PRODUCT	FEATURES	THE PLUSES	COST
Gateway www.gateway.com	42" Plasma Display (uses Smart Board for Plasma Display)	Can be used with SMART Board for Flat-Panel Displays	Inexpensive for this category	\$2,899 (42" display only)
Polyvision www.websterboards.com	Webster IPD (Interactive Plasma Display)	Web and network transmission for interactive remote classes; wireless pen with laser-precision tracking	Provides ultimate visual clarity and requires minimal space	\$12,999 (includes 50" display)
SMART Tech www.smarttech.com	SMART Board for Flat-Panel Displays	Works with existing plasma displays; multiple sizes available	Combines flexibility of SMART Board with bright data display	Call vendor for pricing



[BUYER'S GUIDE]

INTERACTIVE WHITEBOARDS

PROS: Interactive whiteboards offer many options for user control and allow the teacher (or student) to present from the front of the room, save the screen, and print copies. Many support interaction with handheld devices.

CONS: They can be expensive, complex to set up, and require computers and projectors for interactivity. Some are easily damaged.

COMPANY	PRODUCT	FEATURES	THE PLUSES	COST
Numonics www.numonics.com	Interactive Presentation Manager 500TM, 1000MM, 2000MM	47," 62," and 77," diagonal; definable softkeys to control content; lifetime warranty	Flexible; user-definable softkeys	IPM 500: \$995 IPM 1000 : \$1,299 IPM 2000 : \$1,399
	Digital Presentation Appliance	62" diagonal; fixed softkeys	Simplified software makes it easy to use	\$1,095
Polyvision www.websterboards.com	Walk-and-Talk Presentation Series	Model 1400: 57" diagonal Model 1600: 78" diagonal Model 1800: 104" diagonal Surface: touch-sensitive, Teflon-coated, dry-erase, low glare; intuitive remote control; PolyKey technology	Easy to set up and start using	Model 1400: \$1,899 Model 1600: \$2,199 Model 1800: \$2,699
	Webster TS400, 600, 800	Model TS400: 56.9" diagonal, Model TS600: 77.8" diagonal, Model TS800: 104.3" diagonal Surface: touch-sensitive, Teflon-coated, dry-erase, low glare; Intuitive icon strip	Large touch-sensitive projection surface	Model TS400: \$1,299 Model TS600: \$1,599 Model TS800: \$1,999
Promethean www.promethean.co.uk	ACTIVboard plus 75	Hard Formica glare-free surface w/ 75" diagonal usable space; comes with ACTIVstudio software for Mac OS X and Windows; allows for student collaboration with wireless ACTIVslate and ACTIVote	Complete educational system; developed for education	\$1,795
	ACTIVote	Comes with 32 handheld voting devices; allows for group testing and feedback during instruction; works with ACTIVstudio software	Uses ACTIVboard as a voting and testing device	\$1,995



[BUYER'S GUIDE]

(Interactive whiteboards continued)

COMPANY	PRODUCT	FEATURES	THE PLUSES	COST
	ACTIVslate	Allows for wireless control of the ACTIVboard; students can interact with lessons; teacher can control multiple ACTIVslates	Provides wireless remote interactive use of the board	\$495
SMART Tech www.smarttech.com	SMART Board models 540, 560, 580	47", 60", 72" diagonal; hardcoat polyester surface; warranty; content library included; write-over video	Educationally oriented touch screen	\$999 to \$1,999; with SMARTer Kids Grant \$699 to \$1,399
	Rear Projection SMART Board 2000i	66" diagonal; anti-smudge, anti-glare, durable screen; easy height adjustment; integrated projector	Rear-projection whiteboard; shadow-free display time	\$12,999; with SMARTer Kids Grant \$9,749
Virtual Ink www.mimio.com	mimio Board	79" diagonal; ceramisteel surface; 2-yr. warranty	Can be in interactive and capture-ink mode at same time	\$1,199 (education price is 25% less)

PORTABLE INTERACTIVE WHITEBOARDS

PROS: Portable interactive whiteboards can be used with existing whiteboards or any markable surface, are easy to move, and use existing dry markers. They are a good solution for a presenter who moves rooms frequently.

CONS: They must be protected from theft. Recalibration is necessary (and usually easy) after each move.

COMPANY	PRODUCT	FEATURES	THE PLUSES	COST
Luidia www.e-beam.com/education/	eBeam System1	1 lb; serial port; max. active diagonal area 107"	Inexpensive portable solution; easy to use	\$599 (contact dealer for education price)
	eBeam System 3	.5 lbs; USB (no separate power supply needed); max. active diagonal area 86"	Large coverage—up to 150" diagonal	\$749 (contact dealer for education price)
	eBeam Wireless	.5 lbs; Bluetooth or USB; max. active diagonal area 107"; works with Palm or PocketPC	A wireless portable solution	\$1,199 (contact dealer for education price)
Virtual Ink www.mimio.com	mimio xi	On-board memory can download info when convenient; max. active diagonal area 107"	New battery-powered model can be used anywhere	\$799 (education price is 25% less)