



Overview

Pennsylvania Learns iTunes U is an easy-to-use tool that provides resources and activities designed to enhance what Pennsylvania students learn and help bring classroom lessons to life. Created by Pennsylvania educators, *Pennsylvania Learns* serves as a virtual one-stop-shop of valuable resources by assembling video footage and web content from subject matters experts, as well as thousands of pages from libraries across the world.

Organized around instructional framework modules available in the Standards Aligned System (SAS) portal, each course contains rich content and robust resources that have been vetted to assure alignment to the standards. Whereas SAS is centered on helping teachers develop and align their curriculum, *Pennsylvania Learns* helps that curriculum come alive with engaging activities and resources. The resources will be used on wide-array of efforts – from helping students grasp challenging concepts to augmenting the lesson plans designed by educators.

Purpose

Pennsylvania Learns is designed to enhance the way we prepare students for success after high school and the best way to accomplish that goal is to offer support that empowers and engages students, and increases their access to and understanding of important concepts. *Pennsylvania Learns* isn't a repository, but rather an online, on-demand network that allows students to access the tools they need, whenever they need them.

Content is written from a student perspective and activities in each area are designed to help provide a deeper understanding of what is being taught in the classroom. Teachers can integrate the course content, supplement daily instruction, provide remediation during a course for students who are struggling to understand a concept, or simply use the information to reinforce and review activities. Students and parents can also access the resources and use them to support classroom learning, thus empowering families to take an active role in the educational process.

In particular, the Keystone courses (Algebra I, Biology, and Literature) offer valuable resources for either preparation for Keystone Exams, remediation prior to a retake of a Keystone Exam, or as supplementary support for the Project Based Assessments. Every piece of information can be accessed at any time using any electronic device with an Internet connection.

The Content

Pennsylvania Learns currently houses English Language Arts (ELA) courses in grades 9-12; Mathematics in grades 6-8, and Algebra I; and Biology. Complementing the curriculum resources available on our SAS site, *Pennsylvania Learns* provides support by offering ideas and tactics to enhance the quality of classroom instruction. Future efforts include expanding course offerings PK-12 in ELA, Mathematics, and Science.

Resources in the course collections were chosen based upon multiple criteria:

- Align to the content and rigor of the standards
- Reflect the breadth of the curriculum as included in the PA Instructional Frameworks
- Meet needs for both students and teachers
- Allow for various learning styles (e.g., video, podcast, document)
- Address differentiation
- Available free of charge or low cost

Cost and Access to *Pennsylvania Learns*

Pennsylvania Learns iTunes U courses are free and accessible via the iTunes U application or at <https://iTunes.apple.com/us/institution/pennsylvania-learns/id878690525>. Although individuals must establish an iTunes account, there is no registration fee. Once registered, all courses are accessible and open to anyone.

Any course materials that are web-based (including pdfs, audio, video) can be viewed on Macs or PCs; however, to view and access the course resources in context and to see the alignment to the course modules, you must use an iPad.