

Nimbus™

Make social space a learning place™



Nimbus is a safe social learning environment where students, teachers and parents can work together using instructional and social learning tools that support a collaborative experience. Designed specifically for K-12 education, Nimbus supports the sharing of rich and engaging resources between teachers, teachers and students, and teachers and parents. And Nimbus offers a protected environment that keeps participants safe, with stringent controls and language filters to keep communication structured and secure.

Key features and benefits

School and community networks

Nimbus offers social, community and instructional capabilities for students, teachers and parents. And Nimbus is a secure environment that only members can access. So you can provide a safe, controlled online experience for everyone who participates using Web 2.0 tools like blogs, podcasts and RSS feeds.

Professional learning communities

Nimbus offers teachers and staff a secure way to network and explore opportunities to develop professionally. They can engage anytime, anywhere to share best practices, discuss classroom techniques and identify ways to improve student achievement.

Secure collaboration and file sharing

Students, teachers and parents can work collaboratively, participate in discussion groups and blogs, and share files that can only be accessed by members of the group.

Nimbus supports collaborative and project-based learning that helps students develop the 21st century learning skills that are critical for their future success:

- Critical thinking and problem solving
- Communication
- Collaboration
- Creativity and innovation



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Group features

Group creation

Create multiple groups within Nimbus — for classrooms, clubs, teachers, PTA and board members — it's all up to you. And only members will have access.

Role management

Define custom roles and assign specific permissions for each. Administrators can also change permission levels for teachers and students.

Project teams

Build sub-groups to collaborate more efficiently on smaller group work or projects.

Shared calendar

Add events to group calendars manually, or import them using a CSV file.

Photo albums

Create and publish albums that are viewable by all members within the group.

Assignments

Create and post assignments online and add attachments. Assignments are automatically added to the group calendar and to each member's personal planner. Group owners can grade assignments completed by members within the group.

Blogs and podcasts

Engage students more effectively with Web 2.0 tools that enhance communication and collaboration, and extend both teaching and learning beyond the walls of the classroom. Podcasts can easily be uploaded and listened to within Nimbus, so students can engage anytime, anywhere. And teachers can flip their classrooms to give students a new way of learning while keeping them safe and protected within the Nimbus environment.

Member activity report

Group owners can view the activity of each member in the group, making it easy for teachers to track student engagement levels and for administrators to report on student learning and teacher activities. Each report includes summaries of all group activity along with activity for each group member, and a graphical view of activity. Member activity reports are available in these modules:

- Wall posts
- Blog posts
- Comments (on both wall posts and blogs)
- Files uploaded
- Participation in chats, polls and discussions
- Messages sent
- Activity feed

The groups you create within Nimbus are safe and protected with members-only access. And you can assign specific permissions for each role and change permission levels at any time.

Communication features

Messaging

Send internal messages to members within your group. You can even include attachments. All messaging is contained within the Nimbus group, so there's no need to know an email address or use a separate email account.

Chat

Message other group members in real time and carry on instant conversations. All you need to do is open the chat page. And our profanity filter ensures appropriate language.

Polls

Engage students on specific subjects, ask teachers to vote on topics for in-service, or invite parents to rate cafeteria choices. Any member of a group can create a poll.

Work area

Share documents and collaborate safely and easily with other members in the same group.

Discussion boards

Any member in a group can create, view and participate in online discussions.

Wall posts

Begin a conversation within a group and even thread comments. Members can also "like" a posted comment.

Activity feed

Keep informed about all activity within a group, including when a new member has been added, a comment posted or files uploaded.

RSS feeds

Users can subscribe to wall posts, discussions, blogs, and other content areas and be notified whenever new content has been added.

Enhanced text editor

Participants in discussion groups can attach files, insert links, add photos and share videos when creating new topics or replying to a posted topic.



Safety and administration features

User and access permissions

Stringent security, permissions, and access controls ensure the online learning experience is delivered safely. User activity logs and user-, group- and role-based controls allow you to get a 360° view of how the system is being used and monitor potential issues.

Profanity and content filters

Nimbus includes profanity and language filters that prevent your community from being exposed to inappropriate content. Administrators can even add words or phrases to a “black list” or a “white list.” Words on the black list are blocked, while words on the white list are not.

SIS connector

Now you can connect your district’s Student Information System to Nimbus, so teachers’ classroom rosters will automatically be updated with the students who are enrolled in their classes and groups — saving both the time and effort required to re-enter student information.

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

PC

Supported Operating Systems

Microsoft Windows® XP
Microsoft Windows® Vista
Microsoft Windows® 7

Supported Browsers

Microsoft® Explorer 7, 8, and 9
Mozilla® Firefox® 5 +
Google® Chrome® 13.x +

Recommended Browsers & Resolutions

Microsoft® Explorer 8.x
Mozilla® Firefox® 7.x
1024 x 768 resolution or higher

Mac

Supported Operating Systems

Apple Mac OS 10.4 +

Supported Browsers

Apple Safari 4.x and 5.x
Mozilla Firefox 5.0 +

Recommended Browsers & Resolutions

Google Chrome 13.x +
Mozilla Firefox 7.x
1024x768 resolution or higher

Other Web Technologies

JavaScript

Additional Requirements

VGA monitor with x32 color or better; mouse, trackball, or other pointing device.

The Schoolwires story

Schoolwires is dedicated to K-12 education, and to the people who are part of every local school community — students, families, teachers, administrators, and supporters of education. From the beginning, we’ve believed that a successful school district is a product of total community involvement. That’s why our Web-based solutions are expressly designed to connect K-12 communities with the information, services and people they need to achieve their district goals. For more than 10 years, our intuitive technologies have been helping administrators and educators, students and parents, communicate and collaborate like never before — to come together around success.

Today, more than 10 million users in the U.S. and China rely on our website, content management and safe social learning solutions to drive engagement in the classroom, locally and across the globe. We’re proud to be a part of that. And we remain committed to helping K-12 communities extend their local reach and transcend the boundaries of their districts so that individuals everywhere can achieve their full potential.



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