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Ariz. Web site to serve all teachers, students

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PHOENIX - Arizona education officials hope to have 50,000 state teachers, 1 million students and their families linked through one Web site by next August.

The new full-service Web site, called IDEAL, is filled with learning tools to help schools customize education for individual students and their parents.

State education officials hope it can improve test scores, teacher training and parents' understanding of how the school system works.

The virtual statewide campus is the product of a partnership between Arizona State University and the Arizona Department of Education and involves \$2 million in federal funds.

State schools chief Tom Horne said it will give Arizona bragging rights for taking the first step toward one of the most comprehensive electronic teaching and learning aids in the country.

"It is the first time all these services can be accessed through one portal," Horne said. "Technology provides educators the ability to individualize instruction."

Teachers are first in line and get passwords into IDEAL on Monday.

Passwords allowing students to gain access to the site will roll out in January.

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