

1.08.11

Nepris Best Practices

Why Use Nepris?

Nepris is not the only online platform that schools and districts can use to implement “micro-industry engagement,” i.e., the virtual engagement of workplace experts in every industry sector students want to explore (*see resource 1.08.10*). Schools can use Skype, GoToMeeting or any of a number of virtual platforms. Louisiana selected Nepris for three reasons:

- 1) Nepris has recruited a network of workplace experts – Nepris has invested heavily in creating a network of workplace experts in every imaginable industry sector. A simple online request enables teachers to access these experts . . . and if a teacher wants a workplace expert in some truly unique industry sector, Nepris is dedicated to filling those requests if they don’t already have that type of expert within their network. *Using Nepris maximizes student WBL opportunities;*
- 2) Nepris customer service is outstanding – Nepris moderators are engaged with every live interaction to make sure technical difficulties don’t derail a planned session. Nepris’ available (and empathetic) customer service is particularly useful for teachers who *must* hold their virtual WBL sessions during the inflexible time window of a class period; and
- 3) Nepris is a commercial partner of great integrity – Louisiana experienced ups and downs during our expansion of Nepris statewide, particularly the issue of teachers not using licenses. Despite discouraging initial progress, Nepris stayed engaged and forward-looking. Together we deployed in-person teacher training, developed instructional resources to help teachers implement Nepris, and arranged for “challenge grants” to fund the initial license fees for districts and schools. Nepris remained committed to our vision of expanded, high-quality WBL for *all* students, a commitment that has led to greatly expanded virtual WBL across Louisiana.

The value of using Nepris continues to increase as the number of instructional resources for virtual WBL continues to expand. *It is easy for every teacher at every school to create a robust virtual WBL program for all students using Nepris and these no-cost instructional resources.*

Nepris Best Practices

1	Teachers Collaboration	Teaching is transformed when teachers collaborate with one another. That’s why the best way to start using Nepris is to assign this challenge / opportunity to a team of teachers who can support one another as they move through implementation. As educators collaborate they innovate. The best news - your irreplaceable teachers will innovate, creating new Nepris tools and student experiences. Good for them! Encourage them to share their best practices materials with their colleagues and with the national CTE Leadership Academy community at www.lacteleaders.com
2a	Use Existing Instructional Resources	Why reinvent the wheel? Use existing instructional resources from the CTE Leadership Academy (www.lacteleaders.com) and Micro-Enterprise / Virtual Workplace Experience resources from the <i>All Things Jump Start</i> website (https://www.louisianabelieves.com/courses/all-things-jump-start).
2b	Curriculum Integration	Require teachers to incorporate Nepris-driven WBL in their lesson plans – for example, encourage teachers to use some type of virtual mentor interaction as the “hook” when starting a new unit.
3	SET GOALS!!!	Teachers respond to goals. (Everyone does.) Establish usage targets for your teachers, and track their performance versus these goals. Our experience: <i>WBL goals expand student opportunities.</i>
4	Monitor Usage	Once goals are set, use the Nepris Admin Access portal to monitor system usage and goals attainment. The Admin Access tool ensures easy monitoring throughout the school year.
5	Use Templates	Encourage teachers to share the Nepris speaker requests they submit with other teachers. Using a Nepris request template will reduce the paperwork for teachers, which they’ll appreciate.
6	Teachers Train Teachers	Empower experienced teachers to train their colleagues on implementing key WBL modules for <i>all students</i> . Effective PD will make virtual WBL a sustainable resource for your district / school.
7	Model Student Engagement	<u>All</u> virtual WBL includes required student engagement (both verbal and written). Teachers should model the workplace requirement that students <i>engage</i> with unfamiliar workplace adults. <i>Despite any initial anxiety, students cherish their WBL as a peak high school experience.</i>

Artifact 1.08.11b (*Intro to Nepris for CTE Leaders*) describes easy “getting started” next steps with Nepris.