

# The NRW education platform.

For made-to-measure teaching and learning.



The Internet-based education platform created for the German state of North Rhine-Westphalia (NRW) is the perfect tool for teaching in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. It provides educators with powerful support for planning, preparing, and delivering lessons. It enables them to gear the learning process to the individual needs and abilities of their students, and provides direct access to multimedia content modules.

## Multimedia resources for quality teaching.

Multimedia content is stored in a digital library, where it can be accessed with point-and-click simplicity. Library content can be used for instructor-led courses or for self-study.

## Other components.

- Learning management system
- Content management system
- Virtual classroom
- E-mail function
- Chat function

## Functions at a glance:

**School**  
(internal information exchange)

- School logo
- School announcements
- Enable/disable access
- Forums

**Library**  
(all materials used at school)

- Standard publications
- Own materials

**Courses/classes**  
(restricted areas for courses/classes)

- Homework assignments
- Assignment-driven student-specific course plan
- Progress assessment/overview
- Software/content modules
- Library (material exchange)
- Forums

**Desktop**  
(personal area)

- Personal collection of materials
- Notes
- Own materials

**Calendar**  
(Dates/times, link to student-specific course plan)

**E-mail**  
(school-specific system)

The screenshot shows the user interface of the NRW education platform. At the top, there are navigation tabs: SCHULE, KURSE, SCHREIBTISCH, BIBLIOTHEK, KALENDER, and E-MAIL. Below these are buttons for 'Beispielschulname', 'VERWALTUNG', and 'LOG OUT'. A secondary set of tabs includes 'STARTSEITE', 'LERNPLAN', 'HAUSAUFGABEN', 'KURSBIBLIOTHEK', 'KURSFORUM', 'TEILNEHMER', and 'SOFTWARE'. The main content area is titled 'Kursauswahl - Nicoles Kurs - Lernplan'. It features a 'Neue Aufgabe' section with a dropdown menu and a 'Punkte der Teilnehmer' section with a dropdown menu. Below this is a table of assignments:

Pflicht	Alle Aufgaben	Titel	Start	Ende	Bearbeiten	Zuordnung	Freigabe	Stand	Schueler
•	Forum-Aufgabe	Diskussion: Inszenierungsvergleich	Mittwoch, 16.02.2005	Montag, 21.02.2005	Bearbeiten	...	✓	...	•
•	Lernbox	Explorative Datenanalyse - Aufbau des Stamm-Blatt-Diagramms	Mittwoch, 16.02.2005	Dienstag, 22.02.2005	Bearbeiten	...	✓	...	•
•	Hausaufgabe	Referat "English in ..."	Sonntag, ...	Montag, ...	Bearbeiten	...	✓	...	•

At the bottom of the interface, there is a footer with the user name 'Nicole Engel1', the role 'Lehrer/in', and various utility links like 'HILFE', 'IMPRESSUM', 'MEINE DATEN', and 'GUIDED TOUR'. Logos for 'Comelsen', 'Klett', and 'T-Systems' are also present.

# Modern education using multimedia.

The NRW educational platform meets the needs of both teachers and students. It is based on the way schools are typically organized, is clearly structured and intuitive.

## Doing things the way schools do.

The tool models the processes, roles, and user rights seen daily at any school. It reflects familiar teaching and learning methods encountered in instructor-led courses and independent study. The platform supports all forms of teaching and learning. This includes students working alone, small groups of two or more, and entire classes.

## Easing the workload on teachers.

The platform helps teachers to plan, organize and deliver lessons. The curriculum can be easily and quickly tailored to individual students – using a personalized assignment-driven course plan. Standard publications, the school's or teacher's own materials, and external links to the Internet can be made available centrally, to selected individuals, to entire classes, or to multiple groups. Data is captured automatically on student progress and results, providing visibility into working and learning processes, and enabling systematic assessment and analysis.

## Taking account of individual needs.

Teachers can gear instruction to the personal strengths and weaknesses of their students. For example, they can assign specific tasks to individual or to small groups, and can monitor the results via user-friendly graphics.

## Direct access to teaching software.

The content modules are developed by established publishers of educational materials, and placed in a digital library within the learning management system. Cornelsen and Klett created modules and progress-monitoring tools that were put through their paces under real-world conditions – in highly

successful pilot projects in North Rhine-Westphalia involving almost 600 schools and 75,000 registered users. Since autumn 2007, the platform has been open to other content providers. Teachers and students can also add their own, home-grown resources, and make them available to others.

## Outstanding flexibility.

The learning management system can be tailored to each specific teaching situation and objective. Functions can be enabled or disabled in accordance with the student's ability, for example to simplify use for those unfamiliar with computers. However, the pilot projects have shown that the platform is suitable for many target groups, gaining great acceptance from students aged nine to 19.

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## The advantages at a glance.

- Eases the workload on teachers by supporting planning, preparation and follow-up tasks
- Increases effectiveness of teaching
- Enables teaching to be tailored to individual strengths and weaknesses
- Progress can be displayed for specific subjects, or across all subjects
- Gives teachers quick and simple insight into student achievement levels
- Supports teaching of remedial and advanced-level content, and combined subjects
- Allows greater flexibility in scope and type of courses
- Central storage of multimedia content
- Supports collaboration and sharing of materials via a teacher-friendly interface
- Interface for providers of digital content

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