

ASSISTments is a web-based intelligent tutoring system developed at WPI and piloted since 2004 in Worcester County Schools. ASSISTments assists and assesses children in math and science, can be adapted to teachers' objectives and federal and state requirements, and provides data to drive instruction. Across central Massachusetts, 25 school districts are using or plan to use the system.

2002 WPI appoints Neil Heffernan assistant professor of computer science.

Office of Naval Research awards \$203,304 to build tutoring systems' tools. (N. Heffernan; Ken Koedinger, Carnegie Mellon University)

2003 US Department of Education awards \$1.4 million to start ASSISTments for math. (N. Heffernan)

Worcester Public Schools—Forest Grove, Burncoat, and Worcester East are introduced to ASSISTments.

2004 National Science Foundation grants prestigious CAREER award of \$900,000 to N. Heffernan.

2005 Forest Grove Middle School, Worcester, gives N. Heffernan the Thomas Jefferson Award

2006 Worcester Public Schools begins using Connected Math Program curriculum for middle school.

WPI hires Cristina Heffernan to be math coach and trainer for ASSISTments and Connected Math Program.

U.S. Department of Education GAANN awards \$800,000 for graduate fellowships. (N. Heffernan)

2007 WPI appoints Janice Gobert visiting professor of social sciences and policy and computer science; investigation begins to extend ASSISTments to science education.

US Department of Education awards \$2 million to continue ASSISTments development. (N. Heffernan)

National Science Foundation awards \$1.5 million to extend ASSISTments to science. (J. Gobert)

2008 National Science Foundation awards \$2 million to fund ten teachers a year until 2013 in a grant called "Partnership Implementing Mathematics & Science Education: Assisting Middle School Use of Tutoring Technology in the Classroom." (N. Heffernan, J. Gobert)

WPI grants N. Heffernan tenure.

WPI appoints J. Gobert associate professor of social sciences and policy studies, and computer science.

2009 U.S. Department of Education awards \$1.2 million to further work on ASSISTments for science learning. (J. Gobert, N. Heffernan, Joe Beck, and K. Koedinger, Carnegie Mellon)

Massachusetts Association of School Committee awards given to Neil and Cristina Heffernan.

2010 Worcester Public Schools' Math Director Dan Case writes the first school grant for \$300,000 for netbooks, citing ASSISTments as key leverage point.

WPI publishes two important studies. (N. Heffernan)

- Worcester schools using ASSISTments had higher MCAS gain scores than the one school not using ASSISTments that year.
- Students earn ½ a letter grade more in math if they get ASSISTments feedback for homework.

National Science Foundation awards \$1 million to further ASSISTments for science. (J. Gobert, Ryan Baker)

Maine Department of Education, having previously bought laptops for all middle school students, engages with WPI to use ASSISTments for nightly math homework. (N. Heffernan)

WPI establishes graduate program in learning sciences and technologies. N. Heffernan, J. Gobert are co-directors.