
Digital Television (DTV) FAQs

What is DTV?

Digital television uses the same digital technology as CDs and DVDs to transmit and receive television signals. Because it is more efficient than traditional analog broadcasting, digital broadcasting allows TV stations to transmit high definition television (HDTV) programming, multiple streams of standard definition (SD) programming, and even data files.



How does DTV benefit educators?

Digital television gives educators access to additional quality content for use in classroom instruction. This content is delivered in pristine, DVD-quality sound and video.

What DTV content is available?

Many television stations, including UEN-TV and KUED, are currently broadcasting multiple digital channels.



From UEN (www.uen.org/tv):

- * UEN-TV (digital Channel 9.1) – Same content as UEN-TV Channel 9
- * MHz Worldview (digital Channel 9.2) – World news, culture, arts, and music



From KUED (www.kued.org):

- * KUED (Channel 7.1) – same content as KUED Channel 7
- * KUED-HD (Channel 7.2) – new PBS high definition channel
- * KUED V-Me (Channel 7.3) – 24-hour PBS channel in Spanish

How are schools receiving and distributing television programming?

How schools receive TV programming:

1. Over-the-air using an antenna.
2. Cable subscription from a local cable television provider.
3. Satellite receiver.

How schools distribute TV programming:

1. Televisions available for check-out that can be used to tune in to over-the-air broadcasts.
2. Televisions in the classroom used to tune in to over-the-air broadcasts.
3. Televisions either in the classroom or available for checkout that can only be used to view videotapes and/or DVDs.
4. Tapes of programs available for checkout from the school or district library media center.
5. A built-in video distribution network including connected televisions in classrooms and, in most cases, a central head end.

Will my school be affected by the analog shutoff on Feb. 17, 2009?

Depending on how TV programming is accessed and distributed, you may or may not be impacted by the analog shutoff on February 17, 2009. Schools using over-the-air broadcast reception will be affected by the analog shutoff. In addition, not all digital content is currently available through local cable or satellite providers. Check with your provider to find out which channels are available.

Do we need to purchase new equipment?

- 1) YES. If you have any televisions that access over-the-air broadcast programming, or if your school uses an antenna to feed a video distribution network, you will have to purchase digital tuners that can be used with your unique setup. Where televisions are used individually in the school to tune into broadcast programming, each TV will need a set-top converter box. If a school has a video distribution network, a single tuner at the head end may be sufficient or converter boxes may be necessary for each television depending upon the network configuration. Schools are NOT eligible to apply for coupons under the FCC's converter box coupon program, but some electronics retailers may be able to facilitate discounted rates on converter boxes. As an alternative, televisions or VCR/DVD players with integrated digital tuners may be purchased.
- 2) NO. Schools receiving their programming through a cable or satellite provider will not need to purchase additional equipment, but they may not have access to the full range of digital channels.

Where can I get help receiving DTV at my school?

The Utah Education Network can help your school decide what modifications are needed. Contact Nate Southerland, 801-581-4194 or 800-866-5852 for assistance. In addition, some local electronics retailers are willing to help design a solution for your school (though they may charge for this service).

Additional Information:

- UEN's Digital Television website (www.uen.org/tv; click on "Digital TV Information")
- KUED's Digital Television website (www.kued.org; click on "Digital TV: Get Ready")
- FCC Digital Television website (www.dtv.gov)
- DTV Transition Coalition (www.dtvtransition.org)
- Digital TV Converter Box Coupon Program (www.dtv2009.gov)



Contact: Nate Southerland (nate@uen.org; 801-581-4194)