

# Classroom Performance Systems (CPS) Student Response Systems

## Introduction

The Classroom Performance System was developed by eInstruction Corporation. It consists of radio frequency (RF) or infrared (IR) response pads and the receiver unit. Teachers use the CPS software to create and deliver course-related questions, polls, quizzes, etc. Students respond with their response pads, or clickers. The receiver unit records students' performance results. CPS can compile and report student performance results.

With this system teachers can:

- Create, organize, and deliver their own interactive sets of questions
- Create review materials and deliver them via CPS
- Run CPS with PowerPoint
- Print questions in paper format
- Instantly receive and grade homework, tests, etc.
- Generate detailed reports about each student's performance
- Record CPS and non-CPS-generated grades and automatically calculate averages
- Take and record attendance

Source: CPS 5.0 User's Guide (May be accessed at:

[http://www.einstruction.com/support\\_downloads/assessment/cps/cps\\_user\\_guide\\_for\\_pc.pdf](http://www.einstruction.com/support_downloads/assessment/cps/cps_user_guide_for_pc.pdf). This PDF document is a detailed 331-page guide to CPS.

**Advantages of CPS** – Some of them apply to any classroom response system:

- More engaging and fun for students than the traditional classroom lecture method
- Make it easy to track students' progress in class
- Teachers can fine-tune their instruction based on student responses
- They work well both for large lecture halls and for small classes
- The clickers proved a quick way for students to validate their own learning and help them identify areas that need improvement
- They can be used to gauge student opinion on controversial or sensitive issues
- Clickers are easy to use
- A 331-page user's guide may be downloaded free from the CPS website
- CPS offers powerful features such as data splicing that some systems do not support
- It is easy to create questions "on-the fly"
- May improve student attendance
- Integrated with Blackboard

## **Downsides of CPS Clickers (and Other Systems)**

- CPS clickers are more expensive than some of the other systems
- It is possible for students to use them incorrectly
- Fairly steep learning curve for faculty
- It requires significant effort and time to design clicker questions at the higher levels of Bloom's Taxonomy
- Cheating can occur (Example: A student brings another student's clicker to class)
- When students purchase their own clickers or clickers are checked out to them, they may lose them or forget to bring them to class
- There are five major brands of classroom response systems and they are not standardized. Some students may have to use more than one type of clicker in their classes

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