

Atlas Case Study: Escola Maria Imaculada (Chapel School)

Atlas for Aligning Standards

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We are an American International School in Sao Paulo, Brazil, with about 700 students enrolled in our early childhood education center, elementary school, and high school. We are a Catholic school, and we offer three diplomas to all of our students: the Brazilian, American, and International Baccalaureate (IB).



What was the problem?

We had originally switched away from Atlas because it was not being used effectively by teachers. We migrated to Workspace/Samepage, but the organizational structure of the site made it difficult to organize material. While the site offered some helpful features to organize our data and meetings, it was difficult to house curriculum on other sites, principally because they were not made with curriculum in mind.

When we shifted from having a single individual who served as curriculum coordinator to having a curriculum team, with representatives from all grade levels and areas of our school, we all cited the need to have a more purposeful way to develop and track curriculum across our school divisions. While we considered using ManageBac (which we use for IB) and a system through Google Apps for education, our team ultimately decided it would be best to return to Atlas.

How did Atlas help?

We had some video conferences and tutorials to educate our curriculum team, who then supported teachers in implementing Atlas in our school. The Atlas team helped populate the site with the standards and curricula that our school was using. As an international school with a wide set of standards being employed – some subjects follow Common Core, others need to adhere to the specific Brazilian standards, and IB also has its own set of standards – Atlas helped us organize and clearly articulate the programs and standards in place across our different school divisions. We have had quick and helpful support from the Atlas support team throughout the process, adding and updating standards as our school's programs continue to evolve.

What were the outcomes?

Our school is moving toward standards-based grading, and Atlas has been an instrumental part of that process. Aligning all assessments to specific standards and power standards is easy with Atlas, and it has helped us see the big picture of the curriculum to identify power standards moving forward. While we are still in the process of reviewing and documenting our whole curriculum, we have been able to use Atlas as a tool for professional development to lead conversations about lesson planning and effective assessments.

