



Atlas Case Study: New York City Department of Education

Atlas for Publishing Model Curriculum

New York City DOE, NY

The New York City Department of Education oversees all public schools in New York City. It's the largest US School District with over 1.1 million students in 1800 schools.



What was the problem?

Up until a couple years ago, Woburn's curriculum was scattered across multiple portals for documentation – the district lacked a centralized location to document curriculum in addition to a common language or focus. Woburn Schools saw the need to coordinate their process with a fresh start of curriculum documentation and review. To do so, Woburn needed establish a centralized place for curriculum documentation, ensure there was a viable horizontal and vertical scope and sequence, and foster collaboration among teachers.

How did Atlas help?

To map and distribute the model curriculum, the New York City DOE selected Atlas as the medium for documenting and publishing its model curriculum. Via the Atlas Public Site, the New York City DOE is able to publish its curriculum so that others can view it. Having the curriculum public and mapped out in a unit planner allows teachers to view the curriculum and even integrate it into their own instruction. Their public site is a hub for teachers to learn to incorporate the new arts standards and also create robust, aligned, and integrated arts curriculum. The Public Site feature allows the DOE to choose which specific categories or sections of the curriculum it wants to publish, as well as units or courses entirely. The public site is linked to their primary Atlas site, so as they update their primary site, the public site also updates to reflect the changes.

What were the outcomes?

Through Atlas, the New York City DOE succeeded in developing model curriculum and housing it in one central, easily navigated location. Schools can adopt and modify the curriculum and use it to consider best practices for arts units and educate teachers about the new arts standards. Teachers are able to transfer the curriculum to their own schools' Atlas sites and modify or preserve aspects of the curriculum. With this, arts teachers are not only empowered to be the owners of the curriculum, but also have support in their unit mapping and development.

Testimony

"The Office of Arts and Special Projects is pleased to offer teachers of the arts a series of sample of Curriculum Maps to support their planning for instruction. These Maps were developed by teams of veteran educators in Dance, Music, Theater, and Visual Arts with a deep commitment to the integrity and talent of New York City arts teachers. Informed by their respective Blueprints in the Arts, each team developed dynamic introductory Curriculum Maps for four different grade levels: early elementary, upper elementary, middle, and high school. Each Map has several defined Units thatconsecutively span an entire school year. These Units provide a sample comprehensive series of teaching and learning experiences, and furthermore, each Map contains two fully developed lessons for teacher reference and use... We encourage you to think of each map as one teacher's journey; you are invited to modify them as you develop your own distinctive Curriculum Maps for each school year."

