

Atlas Case Study: Woburn Public Schools

Atlas for Fresh Starts

Woburn Schools, MA

Woburn Schools is a public school district with 5000 students across 12 schools. Classes span from pre-school through 12th grade. Given the size of the district and number of schools, it is essential, yet challenging, to maintain consistency in processes.



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?

Within the district, Woburn needed a singular platform to store curriculum. To achieve this, Woburn Schools took advantage of Atlas's ability to house multiple schools in one site, so that all teachers across the district mapped within the same Atlas site.

Woburn Schools realized that often similar aspects of curriculum were being repeated year to year, while across grades, there was a lack of consistency in curriculum. In transferring curriculum to Atlas, Woburn sought to achieve a more cohesive vertical and horizontal scope and sequence. Reporting capabilities within Atlas allows Woburn to directly compare units across a vertical and horizontal sequence, supporting Woburn in achieving this goal.

The ability within Atlas to assign multiple teachers to a course and transparency to view colleague's curriculum fostered a culture of collaborative planning, making curriculum a shared responsibility and resulting in well-developed curriculum across the district.

What were the outcomes?

The introduction of Atlas helped Woburn Schools achieve their goals of establishing a centralized place for curriculum documentation, ensuring there was a viable horizontal and vertical scope and sequence, and fostering collaboration among teachers. Not only that, as Woburn continues to review and improve curriculum, teachers are engaged in the process. Most of all, students benefit from a collaboratively developed curriculum with an intentional scope and sequence.

Testimony

"Candidly, Atlas is a great resource for people to take advantage of because you are never done and you are constantly revising ... it's not even about the adults in that process, it is about the kids" - Dr. Matt Crowley, Superintendent