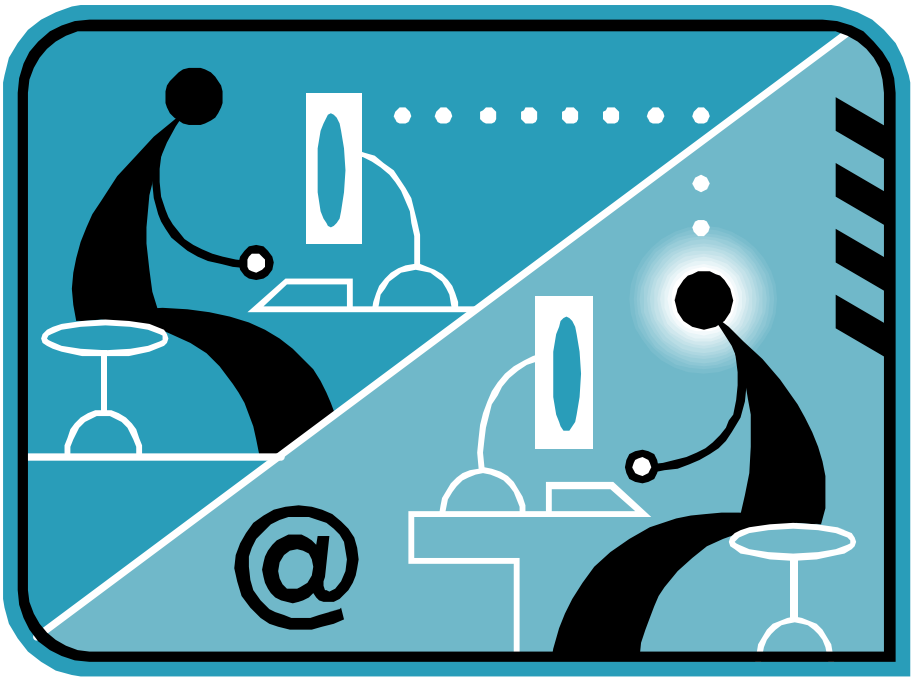
ATLANTIS
CHARTER SCHOOL

Technology Plan



2007- 2010

Atlantis Charter School
Technology Plan

The mission of the Atlantis Charter School is to provide an education second to none yielding academic excellence and life-long learning skills.

Atlantis Charter School, an independent public school, provides an educational choice to the families of Greater Fall River by offering a solid academic foundation to its students on which to build a successful future. Atlantis expects an equal partnership among parents, community, faculty, staff and students to create a safe, caring, innovative and progressive learning environment. Atlantis incorporates the best research-based practices in education to meet the needs of its student population. It is the intent of Atlantis Charter School to become a model of educational excellence.

To successfully fulfill its mission, Atlantis Charter School offers the following:

- A core academic program based on Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks, encouraging careful experimentation in ways to improve teaching and learning.
- A professional staff that develops curriculum focusing on the academic success of each student and, through staff development, reaches for higher individual and school wide goals.
- A safe, caring, and welcoming environment that models a love for learning and strategies that teach how to resolve conflicts in a non-violent manner.
- Improvement of academic performance through fostering health and fitness programs for students.
- A *Home and School Involvement Compact* that formalizes the involvement of parents, students and the school, thus ensuring that all participate equally in the delivery of educational services.
- A *Family Learning Center* that involves everyone in school – children, parents, teachers and administrators – as partners in achieving success for our students.

The Massachusetts Department of Education issued benchmarks so that each district's technology plan would develop a series of goals and action steps in response to the following:

1. Commitment to a Clear Vision and Mission Statement
2. Technology Integration
3. Technology Professional Development
4. Accessibility of Technology
5. Infrastructure for Connectivity
6. Access to the Internet outside the School Day

Our plan responds to each of these benchmarks with a major emphasis placed on the need to continue and expand professional development opportunities for staff so that they can effectively enhance student learning by integrating technology into the curriculum, and increase communication and sharing of all types of information throughout the entire school community by expanding the utilization of technology. The new "basic skills" for the next century will require students to have the ability to access, analyze and communicate information effectively. These information processing skills will enable our students to assume a productive role in an information age that is integral to our global economy.

Atlantis Charter School hopes to meet this challenge by using technology to design effective instructional strategies for our diverse student population. Our ability to provide opportunities that will allow for a new vision of how students and staff learn, how teachers teach, and how technology facilitates both will contribute to the future success of our school.

In an attempt to keep our technology plan as a viable working document we have used our school goals process in key sections to set goals with corresponding action steps so that we may monitor and evaluate our progress. The technology plan's goals in the areas of Curriculum Integration, Professional Development, Accessibility and Infrastructure will be revisited annually as part of our assessment and evaluation process. After evaluation, the status of each goal will be determined as completed, on-going, or in need of revision. Technology planning is an

on-going process that will require us to set new goals during the life of the plan as we evaluate our progress and as technology and funding opportunities change.

To achieve significant progress toward tomorrow's schools, a systemic approach must be used to integrate and simultaneously address three concepts -- active learning, schools as learning communities, and integrated technology. If technology is to have a substantial and lasting impact, it must be used in ways that reflect an important new understanding of learning. Educators and cognitive psychologists have developed this new view during the past two decades. It explains learning as the active construction of meaning and understanding by the learner rather than a passive assimilation of information. It emphasizes the importance of intrinsic curiosity, social interaction and the pursuit of complex projects and genuine problems in the learning environment.

In addition to new concepts of learning, new models of school organization have evolved in recent years. These seek to establish schools as learning communities. This model stresses the importance of interaction among students, teachers, parents, and the community as they work dynamically together for the benefit of the entire community. New patterns of organizing people, more flexible space, and longer blocks of time will enable us to use technology to it fullest potential for student learning.

Information technology is an essential element in putting these new models of schools and learning into practice. It must be transparent to the user as well as integrated as a tool into a wide range of learning activities. It must be right there in the classroom where students and teachers have immediate access when it is needed. New electronic devices will transform our learning and teaching practices far beyond those that have been common place for centuries. With them, schools will provide learning experiences which are active and stress team-work, involve complex thinking skills, focus on solving real world problems, increase interaction with people from other parts of the world, and approach learning in an interdisciplinary manner.

Atlantis Charter School has developed a Strategic plan for the direction of the school for the next three, five and ten years. This plan deals with facilities, curriculum, professional development and the future of technology.

DOE Benchmark Standard 1: *Commitment to a Clear Vision and Mission Statement*

The district's technology plan contains realistic and clearly stated goals and strategies that align with the school improvement plan; it is committed to achieving its vision by the end of the school year 2009-2010.

Atlantis Charter School has a vision that will shape our technology plan for the next three years.

A. **Atlantis Charter School** will continue to integrate technology into its classrooms and across the curriculum to better meet the learning needs of each grade level. Access to internet connected computers is available in every classroom, as well as in computer labs at both the Upper (Grades 5-8) and Lower (Grades K-4) Sites.

B. **Atlantis Charter School's** Technology Integration Committee meets bi-monthly during the school year to discuss current technology needs and issues as well as to address the changing needs of staff and students. Atlantis Charter School's technology projected budget is established based on State appropriations, Grants, and the School's annual budget for each year. As monies become available the projected budget is reassessed and reprioritized based on new technological developments and opportunities as they arise. Using grant resources in addition to budget monies, we are updating our computer labs as well as teacher computers that are used in association with smart boards and LCD projectors to further enhance the learning environment.

C. **Atlantis Charter School's** budget for technology is revisited yearly to meet the ever changing technology demands.

D. **Atlantis Charter School** uses all resources available to obtain funding for technology needs. Grant resources are utilized by all departments at Atlantis Charter School.

DOE Benchmark Standard 2: *Technology Integration*

A. Teacher and Student Use of Technology
   - All teachers (100%) use technology every day to access or share lesson plans, enter attendance information into our electronic student information software, and to communicate through email. In addition, the teachers use technology by using the school's student information system which includes a high level grading module.
   - A majority of our teachers use technology with students in the classroom or computers labs for research, multimedia simulations, data interpretation, communication and collaboration.
   - Our teachers are continuing to work towards meeting individual technology proficiency levels by the school year 2008-09.
   - Use of Study Island: Study Island is an instructional and diagnostic tool that enables teachers to help students master the state standards and prepare for their state tests. This web-based state assessment preparation programs and standards based learning programs is available to all students and teachers in grades 3-8 on all computers in the two school sites. In order meet the requirements of the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System, regular reports are available to teachers and administrative staff to help pinpoint the students' areas of strength and weakness.
   - During September 2008, teachers will utilize the Massachusetts Technology Self Assessment Tool (TSAT) to reestablish their levels of technology proficiency. Technology related professional development will be planned utilizing the data gathered.
   - Atlantis Charter School employs the SmartFilter, Bess Edition, as its filtering software to block access to inappropriate content on all computers.
   - Atlantis Charter School has an Acceptable Use Policy that is posted on the school's website and distributed to all students and parents. The AUP must be signed by the student and a parent/guardian before students are allowed access to the school's network.
   - Each year, Atlantis surveys the faculty for technological needs for the upcoming school year. Each department/grade level submits a prioritized list of requests for equipment, training and software. The Technology Integration Committee then prioritizes the lists school-wide to develop a specific technology purchasing plan for that year.

B. Atlantis Charter School has one (1) full time Technology Director and one (1) Technical Support Technician to provide students, faculty and staff with quick and reliable service and reduce downtime. Atlantis has also advertised for a full-time Technology Integration Specialist who will work to train faculty and staff on how to best integrate technology into the classroom activities.

DOE Benchmark Standard 3: *Technology Professional Development*

A. The staff at Atlantis Charter School has participated in many different technology professional development programs. Technology training has included software selection, Study Island assessment and use, messaging, Smart Board use, grading programs, and our newly implemented Student Information System software, VeraCross.

B. Atlantis Charter School offers courses in Smart Board usage, utilizing a wide variety of software programs, grading programs and VeraCross. Training and curriculum integration is an ongoing process. Continued professional development is crucial to the success of technology integration and advancement for our school.

C. Atlantis Charter School will continue to assess our teacher's needs for professional development based on the results of the TSAT and surveys created by the Technology Committee to determine the direction of future Technological Professional Development training. The Technology Committee also assesses software and hardware needs for each department/grade level based on the curriculum frameworks.

DOE Benchmark Standard 4: *Accessibility of Technology*

A. Students per Instructional Computer:
- Atlantis Charter School has been successful in achieving a ratio of 3.08% student to computer ratio. We have met the standards for fully functioning Internet enabled computers as defined by the Department of Education.
- Atlantis Charter School provides access to portable / handheld devices as deemed appropriate for individual students.
- We will continue to advocate for local funds, seek grants and accept quality donations in order to reach our replacement cycle goal of 25% each year.
- All computers at Atlantis are Type A (high-end) running Windows XP Professional and are capable of running virtually all current software, including high-end video and graphics programs.
- Memory: 512 MG Ram or higher
- Processor: Pentium 4

School	Computer Type	Number of Students	Number of Computers	Ratio Students Per Computer
Atlantis Charter School Gr. K-8	Type A	700	227	3.08

B. Technical Support
- In classroom technical support is provided by phone or if possible by a web based reporting tool. Atlantis Charter School has computers available at most times to switch out a non-functioning computer and eliminate downtime.
- Atlantis Charter School has one (1) full time Technology Director at the Upper School (Grades 5-8) and one (1) full time Technical Support Specialist at the Lower School (Grades K-4) to provide immediate support at each facility.

C. Budget
- Atlantis Charter School develops an operational budget for its district technology plan containing specific line items covering all the expenses for technology.
- The school's budget includes staffing, hardware, software, professional development, support, and contracted services.
- Atlantis Charter School leverages the use of federal, state, and private resources.
- The technology budget provides all funding used all technology related expenses, as Atlantis Charter School does not apply for E-rate funding as of yet.

DOE Benchmark Standard 5: *Infrastructure for Connectivity*

A. Internet Access
- Atlantis Charter School provides connectivity to the Internet in all classrooms, offices, and computer labs.
- Atlantis Charter School contracts with a local internet service provider, (ISP) to provide high speed connectivity between our two buildings and secure internet access.

A. Networking LAN/ WAN
- All computers meet or exceed the minimum requirement capability of 10/100/1000 MB network speed.
- The physical network is a fiber backbone and copper CAT5 standard network connection drops in each room.
- Atlantis Charter School provides services for file sharing, backups, scheduling, email, web-based student information system, and updating of our school website for all staff.

SCHOOL		Number of Classrooms	Total Number of Computers
Atlantis Charter School	Total Number	48	241
	Number Connected to Internet	48	241
	Number Connected to LAN	48	241

DOE Benchmark Standard 6: *Access to the Internet outside of the School Day*

A. Atlantis Charter School maintains its own website, updated daily with information on curriculum, events calendar and resources available to parents and students. Every educator has an Internet account with the capability of sending e-mail and accessing the World Wide Web.

Technology Goals

1. Continue to evaluate and replace computers.
2. Upgrade and revise Backup solution to create a long term disaster recovery plan.
3. Continue acquisition of LCD video projectors and smart boards with training for Staff and Students.
4. Upgrade and expand instructional software in academic and technical areas by assisting teachers with preview and purchase of software packages/services.
5. Administer the TSAT to accurately assess the instructional staff's abilities
6. Provide training for Web based access for Students and parents to student information, such as homework assignments and recommended reading.
7. Expand training and resources to faculty for the creation of teacher websites

Technology Goals Reached

The Atlantis Charter School strives to provide the best modern technology to it staff and students to improve the learning experience. We have made great progress in keeping our schools at the fore front of technology use in education.

The Atlantis Charter School has . . .

- Continued to replace at least one quarter of the existing computers in both school buildings and have targeted other computers to be replaced in the next school year.
- Upgraded computer labs and many classrooms with more efficient and cost effective ink jet and high speed laser printers. These networked printers are accessible from any computer on our network and have reduced downtime due to a lower failure rate.
- Replace older, costly photo copy machines with multifunction digital image processing printers to reduce the cost per page printing.
- Revised the data backup schedule and procedure to allow for more consistent and reliable data redundancy.
- Modified the submission of student grades and report card printing process and provide an easy to read double sided student progress report statement which reduces teacher and staff hours to prepare, paper and other consumable products.
- Upgrade and monitor the internet filter software to protect our students and staff from unsolicited and potentially dangerous internet spam, websites and junk mail in compliance with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA).
- Provided increased security on our internet and intranet to protect student information in accordance with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA).
- Take advantage of funds and reimbursements available though the E-Rate program. The Schools and Libraries Program of the Universal Service Fund makes discounts available to eligible schools and libraries for telecommunication services, Internet access, and internal connections. The program is intended to ensure that schools and libraries have access to affordable telecommunications and information services.