

Atlas for Accreditation

The Meridian School, WA

Member to NWAIS – **Northwest Association of Independent Schools** – the Meridian School participates in an eight-year cycle of continuous improvement, and each cycle culminates in a re-accrediting process with a self-study and school visit.



What was the problem?

To satisfy the accreditation process, the Meridian School needed to initiate and establish a curriculum mapping process, first rewriting and then transferring their curriculum from binders to an online system that would facilitate meaningful analysis and continuous improvement of curriculum – all requirements from the accrediting body.

How did Atlas help?

One of the Meridian School's driving goals was to have a more coherent and consistent scope and sequence across subjects and grades. In Atlas, we built a uniform **unit planner template** that ensured all teachers developed their curriculum using the same template.

Building on that consistency, the Meridian School also wanted to ensure that teachers were putting the right information into each curriculum category. The school leadership developed a **style guide** modified from a sample we provided. We then embedded a link to the guide at the top of each unit planner, making it easily accessible for teachers as they developed their curriculum.

To demonstrate the quality of the curriculum to the accrediting body, the Meridian School relied on Atlas's **built-in reporting capabilities**. For example, the standards analysis report allowed the Meridian School to track and demonstrate that their curriculum was aligned with national and state standards and informed their curriculum development.

The Meridian School also needed a way to publicize their curriculum to the accrediting body, so we built a **public site** for the Meridian School, which published the curriculum for the accreditation team. This allowed the team to easily access and navigate the curriculum.

What were the outcomes?

Having the curriculum available via Atlas was **not only integral in helping The Meridian School gain re-accreditation, but it also informed much of the praise they received from the accrediting body**. Atlas was specifically supportive in helping The Meridian School demonstrate that it: had a mission-aligned curriculum, supported cohesive and consistent curriculum within all program areas, and reviewed and updated curriculum at least once per review cycle. Documenting curriculum in **Atlas helped jumpstart a curriculum initiative unlike anything in the school's past**. Moreover, what was initially a support for accreditation is now an integral piece of the school's process.

Testimony

[Atlas] was very transformative for us...the curriculum had not been written down in a form that could be easily accessed and have the flexibility to be revised and changed on a regular basis. Meghan Kimpton, Head of School



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