

*WELCOME TO*

ATLAS

an interactive look inside the classrooms of Board-certified teachers

**NATIONAL BOARD**  
*for Professional Teaching Standards®*

# WHAT IS ATLAS?

**More than just a video library, ATLAS cases demonstrate Board-certified teachers' approaches to teaching and make accomplished practice accessible.**



All ATLAS cases feature National Board Certified Teachers. Each video case has been assessed as accomplished practice, according to the standards that the teaching profession has set for itself through the National Board.



ATLAS cases include authentic, in-classroom video and instructional materials together with the teachers' own written reflection and analysis, from lesson planning and instruction to impact on student learning.



Select cases are indexed to common frameworks, including National Board, edTPA®, InTASC, TeachingWorks High Leverage Teaching Practices, Deeper Learning, Common Core State Standards, C3 Framework for Social Studies State Standards, and Next Generation Science Standards, providing a coherent image of what frameworks look like in the classrooms of accomplished teachers.

**Today's students need effective teachers who recognize and embrace the complexity of teaching. Our students need teachers who continually reflect on and improve their own practice because they know that their teaching unlocks opportunity for their students.**

**But how can aspiring teachers see what effective practice looks like across subjects, grades and settings? How can practicing teachers continue to grow and improve their knowledge and skills over time?**

*INTRODUCING ATLAS.*

# WHAT IS ATLAS?

**Easy access to more than 1,300 cases covering most subjects, grades and school settings**

**Get inside the thinking with each teacher's own written reflections, from lesson planning and instruction to student learning**

The screenshot displays the ATLAS website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with 'Cases', 'Frameworks', 'Collections', and 'Resources'. A user profile 'Hello My Dashboard' is visible in the top right. Below the navigation bar, there are buttons for 'Back to Results', 'Edit in Admin', 'Save', and 'Sets'. The main content area features a case study titled 'Case #217 Exploring Real-World Scenarios of Algebraic Functions'. The case description states: 'This case shows a teacher using social media to engage her class in determining which type of function should be paired with each scenario and the students analyzing each scenario within small groups and exercising higher critical thinking skills in a whole class discussion.' Below the description are sections for 'TOPICS' (Mathematics, Algebra, Functions) and 'GRADES' (Grades 10, 11). A 'Frameworks' section lists several standards with dropdown menus: National Board Standards, TeachingWorks High-Leverage Practices, edTPA®, Common Core State Standards, INTASC Model Core Teaching Standards, and Deeper Learning Competencies. A video player shows a classroom scene with a teacher and students. Below the video, there are tabs for 'Commentary', 'Background', 'Instructional Materials', 'Notes', and 'Resources'. The 'Commentary' tab is active, showing an 'Open Commentary' section for 'MATH EA #217' with an 'Instructional Context' section. The context text reads: 'There are 23 students in this Algebra II/Trigonometry class, 12 of whom are males. These students are in tenth and eleventh grade and their ages range from 15 to 17. Several students were held back in middle and/or elementary school causing this wide range of ages. There were two students absent during this lesson.' Below this, a paragraph describes a survey conducted by the teacher to gather information on family life circumstances to tailor instruction to students' needs.

**Create groups through your personal dashboard to encourage collaboration with peers and classmates**

**Save and organize cases for easy access later**

**Add your own framework tags to identify key areas of the case**

# ATLAS IN PRACTICE Higher Education



## Central Washington University Washington

Central Washington University uses ATLAS across several campus locations, including satellite campuses and career changer programs. Specifically, ATLAS is being used in coursework on classroom management and assessment, methodology courses, and student teaching experiences. One of the biggest benefits of using ATLAS is providing pre-service teachers the opportunity to see best practices and get behind-the-scenes thinking of teachers' instructional planning, assessment, and outcomes.

*"[ATLAS] is really important in the sense that if [teachers] just observe a classroom they don't get the opportunity to understand the instructional decision-making behind the scenes. They don't get a clear understanding of how that teacher analyzes student data and evidence to inform their instruction or even what the characteristics of the learners were that informed the teacher in their instruction. So with ATLAS, the users, students in my case, are able to then get behind the scenes and see what the thinking was around all of those instructional decisions and what worked well and what didn't work well."*

– Eric Hougan  
Assistant Professor



## Niagara University New York

Niagara University has been using ATLAS since 2013 with pre-service teacher candidates and faculty to integrate into coursework such as curriculum and diversity, content knowledge and the student teaching seminar. For example, in their educational psychology courses that deal with child development, motivation and management, faculty use ATLAS to help pre-service teachers better understand the children in their classes and how to factor in their differences and needs as they begin to plan and implement instruction.

*"In New York State recently we have adopted edTPA® as a requirement for certification and ATLAS has helped us to prepare our teacher candidates for the edTPA®. The thinking and the professional practices that are expected from the accomplished teachers certified by the National Board are what we want our pre-service candidates to be able to see and understand and therefore model. So we've been really using ATLAS to scaffold the edTPA® for them."*

– Chandra Foote  
Dean of the College of Education

# ATLAS IN PRACTICE Local School Districts



## **Yakima School District Washington**

For the Yakima School District, training first- and second-year teachers is a priority. New teachers meet once a month for professional development sessions, where ATLAS cases are used as exemplars of practice. The goal is for early career teachers to learn how to observe practice. After each interaction with ATLAS, teachers are asked to reflect on their own practice and think about how they can apply what they learned from viewing the ATLAS cases to their own classrooms.

*“[ATLAS] does make the thinking visible. In the real world where teachers are just constantly on the go and making decisions really quickly, rarely does someone ask you, ‘Why did you make that decision when you placed that table group together? What data did you use to determine the next goals that you have for those students?’ Accomplished teachers have already recorded that and provided opportunities for teachers to read about it.”*

– Christina Carlson  
Professional Development Specialist



## **Dyersburg City Schools Tennessee**

For teachers in Dyersburg, a town 80 miles north of Memphis, ATLAS is used in after-school professional development sessions for early career teachers. A different topic is selected for each session and the teachers self-select which sessions to attend based on the topic and their individual needs. ATLAS cases are used as examples during the professional development sessions. Emphasis is placed on having early career teachers evaluate their practice and identify areas where they may improve.

*“ATLAS provides unique insights into great teaching. It gives new teachers and early career teachers the opportunity to see not only the teaching of the lesson, but the planning of the lesson and the reflection upon that lesson later on, even suggestions as to what that teacher would do differently next time.”*

– Melody Collier  
Curriculum Coordinator

# WHY ATLAS?

Watching videos of teaching barely tells half the story of what makes teachers accomplished and teaching so complex. The hard part is analysis—getting inside a teacher's head during the decision-making process and the interaction with a single student or an entire class.

ATLAS provides access to that analysis along with an authentic video showing evidence-based practice in action. All cases come from teachers who successfully achieved National Board Certification. This gives the users—whether in teacher preparation programs or in-service professional learning—unprecedented insight into accomplished teaching as defined by the profession's standards and assessed through a peer-reviewed, performance-based process.

When teachers understand and embrace what accomplished teaching looks like, they're better prepared to significantly improve student learning.

**To learn more about ATLAS,  
visit [nbpts.org/ATLAS](https://nbpts.org/ATLAS) or  
email us at [ATLAS@nbpts.org](mailto:ATLAS@nbpts.org).**

# ATLAS

Accomplished Teaching, Learning and Schools®