

Chicago Schools

CASE STUDY >



VALUE CHAIN SOLUTIONS :: IT STRATEGY

Planning to Build a Better Workforce

AT A GLANCE:

- ❖ **Background:** Transform Chicago's education system to align with Mayor Daley's vision of Chicago becoming a premier technology hub.
- ❖ **Challenge:** Create a plan to develop a technologically literate and skilled workforce.
- ❖ **Solution:** The project team developed a Technology Integration Plan.
- ❖ **Result:** The plan has served as a foundation for the schools' transition.

BACKGROUND

With the continual evolution of the "new economy", Chicago's Mayor Daley defined a vision to transform Chicago into a premier technology hub. The Mayor knew that transforming education would be a key component to the ultimate success of his vision.

CHALLENGE

To define and scope this transformation, the City needed a plan that would specify how the three Chicago school organizations – Chicago Public Schools, Catholic Schools, and City Colleges of Chicago – should change to develop a technologically literate and skilled workforce as well as how they could enhance education in all areas through the use of technology.

SOLUTION

The project team worked closely with the three Chicago school organizations to develop a multi-year Technology Integration Plan to align the schools with the Mayor's vision. Over 85 internal and external stakeholders were interviewed. Working with the schools, the team:

- ❖ Articulated the strategic educational goals required to support the Mayor's vision
- ❖ Documented the current state at each organization
- ❖ Assessed external best practices
- ❖ Defined the future state
- ❖ Determined gaps between the current and future state
- ❖ Defined, prioritized, and planned the appropriate strategic initiatives, and developed the communication plan.

RESULTS

Since the Mayor announced the creation of the Technology Integration Plan at Comdex in 2000, it has served as a foundational plan for the schools. The plan was acknowledged by all major newspapers in Chicago and even received federal acknowledgement from Speaker of the House, Dennis Hastert. The Mayor's Office has said, "No other city in the country has addressed the issue of providing a skilled technology workforce at this level. This plan will provide the foundation for Chicago's success in the technology economy by fostering the workforce that technology companies need."

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