



process, APS selected Boxlight as their go-to instructional technology partner for all middle and high schools district-wide.

Boxlight's solution stood out on several fronts, not the least of which was the advanced software package that accompanied the Boxlight hardware. "Up until that point in the search process, I think the boards were pretty comparable," says Natasha Rachell, educational technology consultant. "They did just about the same thing; there were a few different things here and there. Boxlight's interactive instructional software was the game changer."

Consequently, the summer of 2015 marked the start of a strategic partnership between APS and Boxlight for a turnkey solution that includes the purchase, installation, service, support, and professional development for all components of the Boxlight Interactive Classroom. The new approach has become the foundation for APS's commitment to helping its students learn, work, and compete in the modern-day digital environment.

Instructional Transformation

As part of its transformation, Atlanta Public Schools incorporated the 4Cs of learning into its core mission. Critical thinking, creativity, communication, and collaboration became the building blocks for instruction. "We've made the 4Cs part of our culture and our language," says Henderson-Rosser, "and we've started integrating it into everything we do."

Communication is an essential component of APS's success. They started by branding the 21st Century Classroom initiative and visiting every school, sharing the vision, distributing posters, modeling the new approach using the Boxlight technology, and installing a panel in every Media Center so all teachers had immediate access to begin exploration and practice.

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- Natasha Rachell
Educational Technology Consultant

Using a train-the-trainer approach, Boxlight has provided ongoing training for the district's 16 educational technology specialists (ETS) who are responsible for training teachers on the 4Cs and the new approach to 21st century learning. Technology is a seamless component of the professional development, which begins just prior to equipment implementation. "We did that so teachers would be ready to teach on day one with the new boards in their rooms," says Natasha Rachell, Digital Learning Specialist. Post install, the ETSs continue working with the teachers, modeling lessons, co-teaching classes, as well as providing one-on-one training.

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APS' teachers are now more engaging, interactive, and communicative with their students. Instead of lecturing at the front of the class, they pull the students into their lessons, says Rachell, enhancing the learning experience. "We've empowered teachers and students with the tools and

is now well on their way to becoming a 21st century district that actively engages students in real-world learning.

Teachers and students love using the award-winning MimioStudio software to create interactive lessons with embedded assessment, built-in collaboration, and the ability to simultaneously display student work. "When you walk into that environment, there's a huge difference," says Henderson-Rosser. "The content is much richer and more interactive than anything that's being projected using a PowerPoint, and the students are highly engaged in their learning."

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- Aleigha Henderson-Rosser, Ed. D.,
Executive Director Instructional Technology

introduced them to the 4Cs," she says, "and all without having to send instructors off to professional development classes."

Taking Education to New Heights

To date, APS has installed over 700 Boxlight interactive flat panels. In addition to training the Educational Technology Specialists, Boxlight also provides ongoing onsite professional development to technical support managers and staff including help desk staff and field technicians, who provide technical assistance in the schools.

The close cooperation and collaboration between IT and instructional technology has paid off. APS has not only shed its *Little House on the Prairie* image, but