

**DEPARTMENT OF STATE**  
**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**  
**MOHAWK/NORTH COUNTRY TECHNOLOGY LITERARY CONSORTIUM – EDUCATION**

Community Profiles

The Mohawk/North Country Technology Literacy Consortium consists of five BOCES regions and an array of education-related partners that cover a significant portion of northern New York State. The area includes a wide range of districts with an equally broad array of needs. While some areas serve a more affluent population, others have more than 50% of their students eligible for free or reduced-price lunch. The five-BOCES region represented by the Consortium includes nine upstate counties with 59 component school districts with an overall student enrollment in excess of 120,000.

Background

In 1996 the New York State Board of Regents adopted learning standards for all subject areas taught in state schools as well as guidelines for incorporating technology into classroom instruction. These standards were not designed as local school/district curricula, but rather as a roadmap for local school districts to use in the design of their own curricula. According to a study conducted by the Teachers College at Columbia University, the region boasted an up-to-date technology infrastructure but many school districts throughout northern New York lacked the capacity to adequately implement – or even understand – this new framework.

The Mohawk/North Country Technology Literacy Consortium was formed as a planning team to apply for a Title III Technology Literacy Challenge Grant through the New York State Education Department (NYSED). The grant proposal was developed through a consensus process designed to involve teachers, professional staff and administrators from each partner institution. In light of the strengths and needs of the region, the planning team defined its goals not in terms of strengthening infrastructures but in terms of strengthening the instructional staff's capacity to use that infrastructure to enhance teaching and learning.

Funding

The Mohawk/North Country Technology Literacy Consortium was awarded a Title III Technology Literacy challenge Grant in the amount of \$1,025,000 annually for four years between 1997 and 2000. Funding supported school-cohort teams.

Outcome

The project provided a total of 164 laptop computers and 164 Internet accounts for 82 cohort teams to help design and deliver training and K-12 curriculum content aligned to New York State Learning Standards. Technology-based staff development was provided for all public and non-public school teachers and library professionals within the five BOCES service regions. In all, more than 1,000 teachers participated in training workshops offered as part of the project and several hundred lesson plans were submitted, reviewed, and posted on-line to be used in classrooms throughout New York State.