

**Young Scholars Charter School
Philadelphia, PA**

CEO: Lars Beck
Director of Development
and Strategic Planning: David Kasievich

No. of Schools: One
Grades 6 thru 8

Partnered with Inteligent Resources: Since 2008
Technology Support Gained: Over \$309,000 expected

Project Background:

Young Scholars Charter School educates youth within the City of Philadelphia and nearby neighborhoods. The school was started 10 years ago, and its current population is 200 students. Most students come to Young Scholars at least one level below grade level in Math and/or Reading. Young Scholars uses a very focused, progressive educational approach designed specifically to close the achievement gap for low-income students. Nearly 100% of 2008 graduates attended a college-prep high school.

Inteligent Resources began working with the administrative staff at Young Scholars in the summer of 2008 to develop its three year technology plan and formulate its E-Rate strategy for 2009/2010 funding. At that point, the school was considering either an expansion of its existing location or a move to another a building that would require major renovations. Either way, it was in the best interest of the school to leverage E-Rate funding for the network and telecommunication infrastructure build out keeping in mind that the school needed to be prepared for incoming students in the fall of 2009.

Project Challenge:

“There was a lot of flux in our expansion plans, but we knew we had to prepare one of these buildings for the incoming students without that being settled during the height of the E-Rate season,” explained Lars Beck, Young Scholars CEO. “Amidst the construction choices, technology planning was a high priority. We wanted to take advantage of the E-Rate program, but were juggling too many transition plan details. It was prudent that we brought in the Inteligent Resources team to help us establish a strategic technology direction. Inteligent Resources jumped right in to get the work started.”

“One of first things that Inteligent Resources helped us establish was a technology plan with three-year goals,” he said. “Those critical components of our plan drove other decisions about how technology could support and enhance our students’ school learning experience.”

The technology plan is a certified document and is a required element of the E-Rate application process.

“Our final technology plan was driven by our academic goals and very detailed. It covered everything from budget, professional development, implementation timelines, strategies and action items for the acquisition of technology services, infrastructure, hardware and software.”

Intelagent Resources filed our technology plan with the Pennsylvania Department of Education in the Spring of 2009 and the E-Rate applications were filed in February 2009. We were notified in May 2009 that our E-Rate funding requests for Priority One services were approved. This has made it possible for us to begin the new school year with increased telecommunication services for internet, land line voice, email hosting and wireless services at 90% discounts. We are anxiously awaiting funding approval for our Priority Two requests!

“Intelagent Resources guided us through all this knowing that our school’s location would not be solidified until late in the E-Rate planning/filing process,” added David Kasievich, Director of Development and Strategic Planning. “This team of individuals are incredibly knowledgeable and flexible where they can be without compromising E-Rate timetables.”

Project Reward:

Young Scholars Charter School applied for \$309,000+ in E-Rate funding to support the 2009/2010 school year.

“Our fair share totals about \$34,000 for the build out to create a robust, scalable technology infrastructure,” noted Beck. “From a business investment, that leverage value is remarkable.”

“The Intelagent Resources team has years of educational technology, telecommunication and project management experience and they have been involved in E-Rate since its inception 13 years ago. They understand the intricacies of the process which we feel give us an edge.”

“There are a lot of intangible benefits to working with Intelagent Resources as a technology partner,” he added. “When a technology solution enhances classroom research time because the speed of the connection is strong and all students can logon at the small time that is an example of how technology can be a smart educational tool,” Beck said.

To learn more about how Intelagent Resources can help your school benefit from a strategic technology direction and E-Rate, call 1-412-564-4328 or visit www.intelagentresourcesresources.com.

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