



## ***Why choose Designs for Learning to manage your school's technology support needs?***

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➤ **We know charter schools.**

At Designs for Learning, we only work with charter schools. We have been planning, implementing, and supporting technology infrastructures at charter schools for over seven years. We recognize the special challenges that charter schools face, such as tight budgets, limited resources, state and federal government deadlines, and the needs of students, teachers, and administrators. In short, we specialize in providing technology support services that directly address your needs as a charter school. Traditional business-oriented technology consultants don't know how to customize their services to meet these unique needs.

➤ **We are experienced.**

The Designs for Learning technology support staff is headed by Bill Oyler, who has been with Designs for Learning for over seven years, providing technology support exclusively to charter schools. Bill is a Cisco Certified Network Associates (CCNA), has over 10 years' experience in all Microsoft Windows desktop- and network-level technologies, and has an equivalent amount of experience working with Mac OS-based technologies. Bill is also experienced in integrating Macs, PCs, and servers together in school environments. Bill's other areas of expertise include Web site development (with an emphasis on custom programming and database integration), router and firewall configuration, professional security auditing, and server management. Bill has also taught four-semester Cisco certification curriculum at the high school level for two and a half years, as well as short-term Java Programming courses at the high school level. Bill manages the technology support technicians on staff at Designs for Learning and constantly trains them to ensure everyone is kept up-to-date with the latest technology developments, especially those that pertain to schools.

➤ **We are convenient.**

We regularly travel to your school to provide on-site technology support as needed, and we also have advanced remote access capabilities to provide technology support remotely from our office. In most cases, we can connect to any of your school's computers via a secure connection through the Internet. We offer multiple methods of providing technology support, and we select whichever method is most convenient and cost-effective for your school.

➤ **We speak your language.**

Unlike traditional "computer geeks," the technology support staff at Designs for Learning actually like to explain technology in easy-to-understand terms. After all, our company is in the education business. We do not seek to dominate your school's computer systems, but rather our aim is to "demystify" technology so that it can be used effectively by all of your students and staff. This means that a large part of our business is training. We offer technology training in whatever capacity works best for your school, whether that means short, frequent, and informal training sessions for a few

staff members, or a comprehensive professional development day dedicated to technology... or anything in between. We customize our technology training services to meet your school's particular needs.

➤ **We understand the technology planning and E-rate application process.**

Designs for Learning has been responsible for helping many charter schools form technology committees, write MDE-approved three-year technology plans, and file E-Rate application documents to the federal government each year to obtain discounts on telecommunications products and services. Because we are so experienced with the regulations and procedures associated with E-Rate filing and technology planning, we can help your school get these projects done efficiently, accurately, and on time.

➤ **We account for our work.**

All of the time that we spend on technology support for your school is heavily documented via a Web-based help desk tracking and billing system that we developed ourselves. At any time, you can view the status of projects that are currently being working on, you can determine how many hours of technology support your school has utilized, and you can view detailed descriptions of all work has been done in the past. Viewing these reports on a quarterly or yearly basis can be valuable in determining where your school's most common technology support needs lie.

➤ **We are cost-effective.**

By utilizing Designs for Learning for all of your technology support needs, your school does not need to hire a full-time or even a half-time technology coordinator. Designs for Learning's consulting rates for technology support services are among the lowest in the IT consulting industry. Hourly rates start at \$65/hour, and your school can purchase a support contract in varying lengths for the duration of the school year. And because Designs for Learning provides technology support to more than 13 charter schools, we know what technology works and what technology doesn't work for schools. This means that we always recommend the most cost-effective and time-proven solutions. With Designs for Learning, your technology budget dollars go further.

By contracting with Designs for Learning, you get all the experience, convenience, accountability, and results that your school needs to make technology work successfully for all.

- ❖ For more information about Designs for Learning technology support services, please e-mail Bill Oyler, Director of Technology, at [bill@designlearn.net](mailto:bill@designlearn.net) or give him a call at **651-645-0200 x3008**. You can also visit us on the Web at [www.designlearn.net](http://www.designlearn.net).