

Introduction to Automated Weather Source (AWS)

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Using the Automated Weather Source (AWS), students have access to real-time meteorological data from thousands of schools across the United States. Using this information, students will be able to chart weather patterns, determine trends, make weather forecasts and conduct local and national climate studies. The AWS allows for year-round exploration of the weather, seasons and climate. Teachers, and students, are not bound to a curriculum time frame with the AWS; the information is always available. Using the Internet and/or modem teachers and students can access single or multiple stations in the AWS network. Many of the schools in the AWS network also make their information available to the community on the World Wide Web.

With the influence of the New York State Learning Standards and current curriculum changes, students are being required to demonstrate higher levels of thinking and reasoning. By effectively incorporating the AWS into lessons, students will exhibit critical thinking and problem-solving skills in relation to meteorological studies. Once mastered, these skills will transfer to different areas of the curriculum.

This workshop is intended to provide educators with an introductory experience with the Automated Weather Source (AWS) network and AirWatch v4.5 software. Attendants will be guided through the basics of the AWS program, which will include accessing, graphing and charting weather data from cooperating stations. Sample lessons utilizing the AWS will be distributed and modeled during the workshop.

