



Connected Learning: Inspiring New Connections

Twenty-first century schools face new challenges and extraordinary opportunities. Around the world, schools are dealing with constrained budgets. Safety is a major concern for educational leaders and parents alike. And teachers seek innovative ways to engage students who grew up in a connected world and impart the skills they'll need to succeed in the 21st century workforce.

At Cisco, we're helping to create a connected way of living and learning. Read on to find out how schools around the world are using Cisco® solutions to:

- Improve administrative and operational efficiency
- Enhance safety of students and staff
- Engage students with next generation learning tools and technologies

Increase Administrative Efficiency

Administrative efficiency helps schools save time and money and improve communication with teacher and staff, parents, and the wider community. Here are steps you can take today to increase administrative efficiency:

- **Offer video-based teacher in-services and training:** Teachers and staff in Mobile County Public Schools, Alabama, watch in-service speakers on the Cisco Video Portal, saving the time and costs associated with driving up to 50 miles.
- **Combine paging, bells, and environmental controls:** A single IP network for voice, video, data, public address, bells, and building systems costs less to manage than separate networks. The Ft. Bragg Unified School District in California saved US\$500,000 by installing a single unified network on all seven campuses instead of separate networks for voice, data, alarms, and bells.
- **Provide a phone in every classroom and a voicemail account for every teacher:** In Cleveland County Public Schools in North Carolina, teachers and staff can communicate more easily with parents and the administration with Cisco Unity Unified Messaging. Teachers see a list of voicemail messages in their email inbox and just click to listen. The result is improved parent-teacher communications, an important factor in academic success.
- **Enhance communications with parents and the community:** The Mobile County Public School District uses the Cisco Digital Media System and digital signs in every school office to display a weekly video that helps keep parents engaged and voters informed about the district's accomplishments. The district publishes the same videos on the web using Cisco Video Portal.
- **Save time taking attendance:** Teachers can use a Cisco Unified IP Phone to enter attendance, automatically updating the attendance system. Office staff no longer need to spend time reentering handwritten attendance logs.
- **Simplify access to student records and administrative tools:** Reliable wired and wireless network access lets authorized teachers and staff easily access student information systems from anywhere on campus.
- **Support energy-saving initiatives:** Using Cisco WebEx™, Cisco Unified MeetingPlace, or Cisco Video Portal for meetings, training, and in-service sessions reduces a school's carbon footprint.

Enhance Safety and Security

Safe and secure campuses are more conducive to learning. Schools need solutions to protect the privacy of student records and school information, prevent infections that could damage the network, enhance physical safety, and encourage good behavior. Campus safety solutions such as IP video surveillance, digital signage, communications interoperability, and network access controls can save time and money, too. And they can help you meet legal and regulatory requirements and minimize financial risk. Here are steps you can take today to enhance safety and security:

- **Integrate video surveillance, access control, and communications systems:** Individual security systems are more effective when they are integrated on the same network. For example, a door being forced open can trigger a wired or wireless video surveillance camera to send video to a central monitoring station and send an alert to an administrator's phone.
- **Protect the network and information:** Newer physical security solutions connect to the IP network, making it even more important for campuses to protect the network from unauthorized access, attacks, or infections. Cisco Network Admission Control technology helps by authenticating users and giving them appropriate access based on their role. It also confirms that the student's or teacher's PC is not infected and conforms to the school's security policies.
- **Provide mass notification during emergencies:** With the Cisco Digital Media System, schools can disseminate emergency alerts and instructions on digital signs connected throughout the campus.
- **Send emergency alerts from any location:** In schools with a Cisco Unified Wireless Network, faculty and staff can send emergency alerts to appropriate personnel by simply pressing an alert button on their active radio frequency ID (RFID) tag.
- **Centrally monitor surveillance cameras:** Moss Point School District in Mississippi monitors all hallways and the campus perimeter in all buildings using Cisco Video Surveillance solutions. The junior high school principal can get a quick overview of campus safety on a large screen containing feeds from all of the school's cameras.
- **Remotely access video surveillance information:** Security and administration personnel can use mobile WiFi devices to access video surveillance images and information from anywhere on campus.
- **Centrally manage building access controls:** When all building access controls are connected to the school's unified network, an administrator can lock or unlock individual rooms and buildings remotely.
- **Reach staff by phone, anytime and anywhere:** In schools with a Cisco Unified Wireless Network and Cisco Unified Wireless IP Phones, teachers and administrators can place and receive calls from anywhere on campus for faster awareness of emergencies or safety incidents.
- **Work effectively with public safety agencies:** School safety officers and local police departments often use different radio systems that cannot communicate directly. Cisco IP Interoperability and Collaboration System (IPICS) enables school officials to use any type of radio or telephone to join radio talk groups with local police and fire departments.

Enable Next Generation Learning

Student success begins with student engagement. Cisco Next Generation Learning solutions allow students to interact with each other and their teachers; access multimedia content anywhere, anytime; and practice 21st-century skills such as collaborative problem solving, innovation, and media literacy. Innovative teaching methods and inspiring new technologies, can engage students, bring renewed excitement to the classroom, and contribute to students' employability and social equity. Let Cisco solutions help you create next generation learning environments:

- **Provide broadband connectivity:** Bulgaria and Slovakia have connected all of their schools to encourage knowledge sharing. Teachers in Scotland create and share educational content on Glow, a national intranet for education, using Cisco content delivery solutions.
- **Enrich instruction with digital media:** Teachers can assign videos on Cisco Video Portal, part of the Cisco Digital Media System, to view on classroom PCs or at home. Groups of students or entire classes can watch together on Enterprise TV, also part of the Cisco Digital Media System.
- **Encourage student-produced multimedia content:** Students can use commercial video production tools to showcase their knowledge and prepare themselves for 21st-century careers. Using the Cisco Media Experience Engine 3000, students and teachers can create multimedia content and easily distribute it in the right format for digital signs, the Cisco Video Portal, Enterprise TV, and wireless devices.
- **Enable online classroom interaction:** Teachers can use Cisco WebEx or Cisco Unified MeetingPlace to administer instant polls and surveys that students can take using PCs and wireless laptops. And they engage students and provide individualized instruction using Web 2.0 tools such as podcasts, blogs, and wikis.



- **Extend special classes to other schools:** Cleveland County Public Schools uses Cisco Unified Videoconferencing to offer Advanced Placement (AP) courses to schools without enough enrollment to justify a separate teacher. Teachers can easily control what their students see or hear from the other connected classroom. AP scores are the same for students in both classrooms.
- **Provide a mobile learning environment:** Students in British Columbia School District 23 can use wireless laptops in any classroom with a Cisco Unified Wireless Network. The district enforces access policies with Cisco Security Agent and prevents unauthorized access and infections with Cisco Network Admission Control.
- **Teach homebound students:** Broward County School District in Florida uses Cisco Unified MeetingPlace for students who are too ill to attend school and for those in its expulsion abeyance program. Students use any phone to dial the Cisco Unified MeetingPlace system, then participate in the voice conference and view content from the teacher’s PC on their browser.

Get Started

Schools typically start with one or two applications, such as Cisco Unified Communications and video surveillance, and can add more applications at any time. Each new application increases the return on investment. Table 1 shows a sample plan for becoming a 21st-century school.

Table 1 Five-Step Plan for Building a Next Generation Learning Environment

Step	Cisco Solutions and Services
Establish a vision of the future and obtain cross-functional buy-in	Work with your Cisco Education Account Manager for ideas and resources
Converge all wired and wireless networks and connect all buildings for improved efficiency and cost savings	Cisco Unified IP Network Cisco Unified Communications Cisco Unified Wireless Network Cisco Connected Real Estate
Implement solutions that enable communications and collaboration from anywhere on campus	Cisco IP telephony Cisco Unified Communications Cisco Unified Wireless Network Cisco WebEx Cisco Unity Cisco TelePresence™ Cisco Digital Media System
Ensure that the network and physical environments are safe and secure	Cisco Self-Defending Network technology, including Cisco Network Admission Control Cisco Physical Security solutions, including Cisco Video Surveillance and Cisco Physical Access Control Cisco IP Interoperability and Collaboration System Cisco Connected Real Estate Cisco Digital Media System
Create next generation learning environments that enhance the quality of education and engage learners from anywhere on campus	Cisco Digital Media System, including Cisco Video Portal and Enterprise TV Cisco WebEx Cisco Unified Videoconferencing Cisco Unified Wireless Network Cisco TelePresence



Why Cisco?

We work closely with schools to anticipate and respond to the demand for new approaches that promote employability and social equity. Schools use Cisco solutions to provide the secure communication and real-time interaction that students, faculty, and staff expect while enabling a safe environment, improved administrative efficiency, and access to engaging learning opportunities. Cisco offers schools our:

- **Strong understanding of and commitment to education:** Cisco recruits employees with education backgrounds to help guide product development for all sizes of schools. Cisco is a strategic partner in the Global Education Initiative, led by the World Economic Forum, as well as other worldwide education programs. Cisco's largest education initiative is Cisco Networking Academy®, a proven model for 21st century learning that equips students with the IT and networking skills necessary to compete in a global economy. Networking Academy is available in more than 160 countries and serves more than 800,000 students.
- **Commitment to customer service and customer success:** In addition to hardware and software products, Cisco provides a broad range of service offerings to help schools succeed.
- **Technical expertise:** Cisco and our partners help to make networks, applications, and people work better together. We make sure your Cisco products and network operate efficiently and benefit from up-to-date system and application software. Cisco Advanced Services integrates solutions from Cisco and our partners and helps you lower your operational costs, increase network availability, and optimize performance.
- **Industry-leading, interoperable, standards-based solutions:** Cisco's standards-based solutions interoperate with hardware and software from other vendors, enabling you to extend the value and life of your investment in Cisco networks.
- **Cisco CapitalSM finance programs:** Innovative financing enables schools to easily acquire, deploy, and optimize their solutions. Options include Tax-Exempt Lease Purchase (TELP), Fair Market Value Lease, and Cisco Technology Migration Program.

Conclusion

Connected learning inspires new connections: between students, with teachers, between schools, and with the wider community. Schools can thrive by taking advantage of Cisco solutions to create connected, on-demand learning environments. The rewards are increased administrative efficiency, enhanced safety and security, and students who are engaged by interactivity and collaboration. We want to join in your vision for a connected campus that inspires students, faculty, and staff to engage in lifelong learning.

For More Information

To read more about the Cisco solutions for education, visit: www.cisco.com/go/education




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