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Educator Brief

Technology Solution Scales Up Rapidly to Sixteen Schools in Eighteen Months

Jefferson Parish Public School System

LOCATION: Greater New Orleans area
NUMBER OF SCHOOLS: 87
NUMBER OF STUDENTS: ±44,000

GRADES: Pre-K through 12
SCHOOL STRUCTURE: Suburban
PERCENT OF STUDENTS ELIGIBLE FOR FREE OR REDUCED LUNCH: 75



The Objective

The Jefferson Parish Public School System (JPPSS) wanted to improve student outcomes by providing engaging and challenging work for all students and remediation for every child who needed it.

The Process

To achieve this goal, JPPSS participated in the Cisco® 21st Century Schools Initiative (21S) in order to rapidly migrate from lecture-based learning to student-centered learning using technology as an accelerant. By installing a reliable network that would allow ubiquitous access to technology and redefining pedagogy to incorporate technology as part of learning, the district positioned itself to meet its objectives.

The following steps were taken to integrate technology:

- Defined clear objectives for fulfilling the vision
- Determined how to fund the project
- Followed a technology plan laid out by the 21S team
- Hired a chief technology officer (CTO) to support the district's strategic goals and maintain the desired rate of transformation
- Developed a standardized plan with an aggressive time schedule for the entire district
- Gained approval for the plan from all stakeholders to facilitate a smooth transition

- Evaluated job positions, redefined job descriptions to match district needs, and expanded the district technology staff as needed
- Designated the CTO as the sole administrative and education technology decision-maker to standardize technology use and acquisition practices
- Set up a policy that prohibits spending money on programs and technologies that are not aligned with district objectives

The Outcome

In just 18 months, JPPSS succeeded in scaling its new technology solution to 16 schools, with plans to replicate it throughout the district and provide professional development training to ensure the sustainable and effective use of technology. All 87 schools in the district are well-poised to become 21st century schools and transform student outcomes in record time.

Lesson Learned

JPPSS educators were able to accelerate the pace of adoption within schools and the community by adhering to a set of best practices—clarifying the goal, developing a roadmap, getting buy-in from the stakeholders, evaluating the appropriateness and qualifications of the technology staff, and standardizing the technology.

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