

Intelligent Buildings Cut Costs and Support School Modernization

School districts are adopting a more systematic approach to facilities management that can lower the cost of installation, integration and ongoing building maintenance while gaining greater automation and centralized services.

Today's schools range from a single building to thousands of buildings across a school district. Historically, schools have managed separate, proprietary environmental and building controls for every building. The inefficiencies of these isolated systems and outdated paper-based processes, growing pressure to modernize and the enormous capital investment required to retrofit older buildings have driven many schools to seek building and environmental management services that are cost-effective, converged, integrated and interoperable.

By implementing an intelligent network and converging existing building services onto an IP backbone, school districts can streamline manual processes, reduce paperwork and keep maintenance and management staff connected and productive. By combining this network with wireless LAN technology, school districts can also profoundly change the way facilities are managed, while cutting costs.

Exploring the Benefits

Cisco offers a facilities management and energy management solution that enables access, analysis and the ability to act on energy and building services data through an intelligent network. Through this converged building network-based approach, educational institutions can:

- **Reduce the lifecycle costs of buildings across a school district:** Cisco's intelligent network provides a platform for operational efficiencies, linking school buildings districtwide into a unified, centrally managed, converged system.
- **Streamline building operations:** Using Cisco Connected Real Estate (CRE) solutions, school staffers can report problems through a web portal or IP-based contact center and route work orders to a technician's wireless PDA to quickly resolve temperature complaints, lighting issues or situations that could affect student safety. Paper-based processes can be eliminated.
- **Lower energy consumption:** Cisco CRE solutions enable better control over energy use through centralized tracking of all energy-powered services, including HVAC systems and lighting controls.
- **Improve school safety and security:** With Cisco CRE solutions, schools can keep better watch over grounds and

facilities with surveillance systems, including building access control.

Understanding Cisco Connected Real Estate

Cisco CRE solutions for schools consist of a secure, resilient, high-speed network backbone running through all buildings on a school campus or buildings in a school district, to provide support for environmental and building controls as well as network data, voice and video services. Systems that reduce energy use, for example, enable schools to access information from any device that consumes energy, analyze the data and act upon the information to continuously lower energy expenses.

Using Cisco CRE solutions, school district personnel can access and manage data about a range of energy-consuming and building service systems. The ability to implement centrally controlled, energy-efficient building management offers great promise for achieving cost and energy reductions.

To reduce both capital and operating expenses, the Giddings school district in Texas turned to Cisco CRE solutions and partner Calence to unify voice, data, and video traffic in the construction of a new high school. Cisco's solution now connects HVAC, energy and lighting over a single IP backbone network. Facilities managers centrally monitor energy usage to find efficiencies and automate environmental controls. Giddings officials report that the network is automated, smart, interoperable and scalable. The Cisco CRE solution benefited the school district by providing lower up-front and maintenance costs as well as an integrated platform equipped to handle future technologies.

By harnessing the power of their IP network, school districts can leverage building intelligence in a variety of ways. Imagine bathroom fixtures that automatically dispatch maintenance staff when there's a need for more paper towels or soap. Or in the event of an emergency, centrally controlled systems automatically open and close doors, provide information by digital messaging and media systems about the best evacuation route and alert local police or fire agencies to situations as they unfold.

Cisco offers comprehensive networking as well as voice, video, data and mobility solutions, coupled with the highest-rated service and support in the industry. Whether modernizing an existing facility or architecting a new school, Cisco CRE solutions connect all buildings to the power of the Internet. With Cisco technology, schools can improve safety and security, while reducing energy use to help control operating costs.



For more information, please visit

www.cisco.com/web/strategy/education/connected_real_estate_for_schools.html,
or call (866) 899-0184.