

Forward-thinking education  
for a better prepared workforce.



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welcome to  
the human network.



# Building dynamic learning environments to prepare students for the future.

## Connected learning: inspiring new connections.

At Cisco, we're working hard to help create a connected way of living and learning. Cisco® Solutions give schools the ability to create a connected on-demand learning environment — removing barriers to communications, enabling real-time interactions, and expanding access to quality education. Educational opportunities are everywhere. Our goal is to help keep those connections dynamic and impactful. Our vision is a secure, connected school that inspires students, faculty and staff to engage in lifelong learning.



The education needed to provide to prepare students for their role in the next-generation workforce has changed on virtually every level. From teaching tech-savvy students who have grown up in a connected world to delivering the right skill sets to future employers that have higher expectations, our schools have to find ways to keep up. Ensuring you have the enabled classroom environments and effective educational programs that will give your students competitive advantage in the workforce is a critical concern.

While creating a more dynamic school and learning environment may seem challenging, our global economy offers many opportunities to succeed in this effort. Whether it involves connecting your students with experts outside your school, enabling self-directed learning opportunities, or facilitating collaborative learning that extends across or beyond your campus, the 21st century classroom now stretches past your walls to create a more compelling worldwide community of learning.

To provide your students with next-generation learning opportunities, you likely face at least three key challenges on a daily basis:

- Engaging students in the learning experience
- Ensuring students receive an education that prepares them for the future
- Cost-effectively investing in connected learning for today and tomorrow

We understand these challenges. Our goal is to help you find the best solutions to these issues so you can focus on creating the most effective 21st century academic environment possible.

When humanity meets technology, the way we work changes and the way we live is transformed. We are realizing human potential, seeing the results of our actions. When people are connected, wonderful things happen, and innovative and sustainable solutions are born both locally and globally. That's the human network effect.

# Enabling next-generation learning at every opportunity.

## Connecting with a connected student body.

Technology is a way of life for today's kids. They spend their free time on the Internet, texting friends, playing video games, and exploring social networking sites. They expect the same level of technology engagement in their educational environment. Without it, schools run the risk of losing their interest or failing to prepare them for the realities of today's workplace.

With a wealth of rich media resources to draw from, teachers can create a curriculum that combines the best of both traditional teaching models and new media. Collaboration tools make team projects and connecting with students and experts in other environments easier to implement and sustain. And with new ways to communicate and connect with students, learning no longer has to be limited to the classroom or school hours. Giving students exposure to a much wider world of information, expertise, and experiences helps engage them with life and with learning. It creates a more compelling dynamic with their teachers. And it instills in them a lifelong curiosity and connection to the world around them.

Key questions to ask about creating a more engaging learning environment:

- What different kinds of rich media resources can we draw upon?
- How can we create connections between our students and external subject matter experts or students in other environments?
- Where can we encourage collaborative learning?
- How do we make our classrooms more in tune with the real world?

## Effectively preparing students for the future.

For most people, an education is ultimately about one thing — employability. Today's employers have become increasingly demanding and selective. They want the best and brightest. And in the current economy, they can choose to be picky. The pressure is on for our schools to effectively equip the future workforce and provide programs and opportunities that help them stand out in a crowd of résumés.

The first challenge is ensuring that your classrooms are relevant to the real world. The days of relying on printed textbooks and classroom lectures are gone. Curricula must be drawn from a range of multimedia sources such as podcasts, blogs, or wikis and reflect up-to-the-minute advances in any subject area. Collaborative learning is key to ensuring that students have the necessary skills to work effectively in a team environment. And the rich media and more open learning processes that inspire teachers and students to innovate and explore new opportunities must become the educational norm.

To ensure your students are future-ready, consider these questions:

- Where do we integrate new media into our curriculum?
- How are we ensuring that our students graduate with the skills today's employers demand?
- What solutions do we have in place to facilitate more creative learning opportunities?
- How do we encourage students and teachers to collaborate?
- Where can we cost-effectively implement new teaching approaches?
- Do we have the right training in place to ensure teachers can effectively use new learning solutions?

## Smart investments for today and tomorrow.

In education, budget constraints are a constant challenge to do more with less. That means choosing solutions that help you both better utilize existing resources and create a more connected learning environment. More than following the latest learning or teaching trends, this is about implementing solutions that have far-reaching impact and that will continue to be relevant for years to come. The right technology selections today can mean greater cost-efficiencies and better equipped students tomorrow, which means that time is of the essence.

Communication is always a key component of education. With the right communications network in place, you can streamline operations while at the same time expanding access to new media resources. Wireless connectivity is another area where new technology can improve both the educational experience and your operational economics. Enabling learning anywhere on your campus allows more effective use of space and ensures access to resources to drive greater efficiency. And video conferencing and collaboration tools can provide students the benefit of external resources and experiences without the associated expenses of field trips. While initially, connected learning may seem like an expense, ultimately it's an investment in improved operations and a better experience for staff and students alike.

Discover opportunities to cost-effectively deploy connected learning environments with these questions:

- How can new learning solutions help us more efficiently use existing infrastructure?
- What new experiences and learning opportunities can connected learning offer our students without leaving our campus?
- How will new learning solutions transform the physical landscape of our campus?
- Where can we use new learning solutions to save money?

# Cisco Solutions for next-generation learning.



Think of your IP network as the platform for enabling a truly connected, next-generation learning environment. By using it as the foundation for your communications tools, collaboration capabilities, rich media solutions, and mobility infrastructure, you can help ensure that you have the systems and processes in place to deliver a more dynamic educational experience. Cisco Solutions optimize that network to help you respond to the latest learning opportunities and empower your students with the skills that will make them more competitive.

#### Cisco Solutions deliver:

- **Improved communications:** A single communications system that combines voice, video, and data boosts staff and student satisfaction by simplifying access to information.
- **Enhanced collaboration:** With a single, combined voice and data network, sharing information is easy, inspiring new learning opportunities and bringing teachers and students together.
- **Reduced costs:** By consolidating various networks, you can improve connectivity and cost-effectively deliver access to the latest learning tools.

- **Expanded access:** Provide students and teachers access to a wider array of media-rich resources, while enabling remote learning and integration of external subject matter expertise.
- **Improved mobility:** Give students and staff access to information and resources from anywhere on campus, indoors or outdoors.
- **Seamless implementation:** Ensure that students and teachers have access to the latest tools and the expertise to effectively put them to use.

#### These Cisco Solutions are designed to help schools create next-generation learning environments and prepare students for the future:

- **Cisco Unified Communications:** Enhance communications security, flexibility, and information access with a single IP network that includes data, voice, and video capabilities.
- **Cisco Unified Wireless Network:** Provide high-speed, next-generation wireless access to extend learning beyond the classroom to anywhere on campus.
- **Cisco Digital Media System:** Deliver on-demand learning content to desktops and digital signs anywhere, anytime.
- **Cisco WebEx™ Collaboration:** Expand the reach of courses to remote learners, provide rich interactive environments for online classes, and enable collaborative online projects conversations between teachers and students.
- **Cisco Consulting Services:** Help teachers and students effectively use new collaboration, communications, and learning tools by providing online or on-campus training from our experienced educational consultants.

At Cisco, our goal is to put the human network effect to work for you to create an optimal learning environment for your students and staff. Ensuring opportunities for next-generation learning experiences is at the heart of this effort. By helping you integrate new broadband and next-generation learning tools, increase collaboration opportunities, and implement technologies that give your students and staff access to a wider world of educational resources, we provide a solid foundation for creating a learning and teaching environment that effectively prepares your students for the future. Your network is at the center of this integrated effort.

To learn more about the Cisco Solutions designed to enhance next-generation learning in schools, contact your Cisco representative or visit [http://www.cisco.com/web/strategy/education/21stGenEdu\\_CCE-Schools.html](http://www.cisco.com/web/strategy/education/21stGenEdu_CCE-Schools.html)