



## Improve Communications for Better Efficiency, Safety, Teaching, and Learning

When you need to make an important announcement to students, which tools do you use? Are you able to quickly communicate with them whether they are in class, between periods, or altogether away from school grounds? Can you alert their parents with equal ease? And do your faculty and administrators have the capabilities to rapidly engage first responders in times of need?

In today's 21st century learning environment, the ability to communicate the right information to the right people at the right time is essential.

### Comprehensive Communications Demand a Complete Solution

Cisco® Notifi-ED is designed to improve communications for schools, colleges, and universities. By using the Cisco Unified Communications infrastructure and proven network designs, along with leading industry applications from partners such as Berbee and SchoolMessenger, Notifi-ED provides a dynamic collaboration platform for better efficiency, safety, teaching, and learning.

### California School District Sees Rapid ROI from Unified Communications

In Northern California, the San Ramon Valley Unified School District, a K-12 district with 24,000 students, replaced their antiquated private branch exchange (PBX) phone systems with a Cisco Unified Communications system integrated with Berbee InformaCast for IP-based bells, clocks, alarms, and paging. By taking advantage of this single, converged communications architecture, the district reduced the cost of a traditional PA system in half, especially in the areas of conduit, cabling, and installation. In addition to these savings, administrators are also enjoying intra-district extension dialing, caller ID, conferencing, reporting, and integrated voicemail – all features that will easily scale as the growing district opens schools in the future.

For more information, visit: [http://newsroom.cisco.com/dlls/2006/prod\\_032706.html](http://newsroom.cisco.com/dlls/2006/prod_032706.html)

Table 1 How Cisco Notifi-ED Solutions Address Your Primary Challenges

Challenge	How Cisco Notifi-ED Solutions Help
School safety and security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enables real-time communication between safety and security systems, networked data, and first responders</li> <li>Helps maintain and disclose information about crime on or around campus</li> </ul>
Antiquated infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Replaces outdated equipment and integrates existing technology where possible</li> <li>Offers flexible financing through Cisco Capital<sup>SM</sup></li> </ul>
Maximizing network and communication investments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Eliminates costs of multiple, disparate systems</li> <li>Scales easily as requirements evolve; provides a single, integrated communications platform</li> </ul>
Manual/paper-based communications to parents, for administrative and emergency purposes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Automates notifications (such as student absenteeism)</li> <li>Sends vital information to digital signs</li> </ul>
Truancy and related costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Creates next-generation learning environments</li> <li>Improves participation and graduation rates by providing virtual tutoring and parent-teacher conferences</li> </ul>

## Use the Network as Your Platform for Better Communications

Whether communicating casual details like the time and location of a campuswide assembly or notifying the educational community at large with evacuation instructions for a developing incident, you can use your existing data network to meet your needs.

By adding Cisco Unified Communications to your current IP network, you can provide:

- IP phones in every classroom and office
- Integration with public safety answering points
- Digital messaging and alerts to multiple communication devices
- Desktop video collaboration
- Automated notifications to parents
- Broadcast messaging through a variety of notification modes
- One-touch access and single-number reach
- Unified messaging and mailbox

### Illinois Community College Reduces Costs, Improves Communications

Seeking to enhance communications in both everyday and emergency situations, Moraine Valley Community College deployed SchoolMessenger's system on the Cisco Unified Communications platform. The college also uses SchoolMessenger's Application Service Provider solution for added offsite capacity. In addition to saving more than \$300,000 over a three-year period compared to traditional security approaches, the college is pleased with its convenience in myriad circumstances. "By using SchoolMessenger it took us just 16 minutes to alert 18,000 students that the school would be closed due to bad weather," says Jack Leifel, chief information officer for Moraine Valley Community College. "Our system then automated a report of who answered the phone, who received voice messages, and which calls did not go through."

For more information, visit: [http://www.cisco.com/en/US/netsol/ns340/ns394/ns165/net-working\\_solutions\\_customer\\_profile09186a00801f4771.html](http://www.cisco.com/en/US/netsol/ns340/ns394/ns165/net-working_solutions_customer_profile09186a00801f4771.html)

These innovative technologies work in conjunction with partner applications from Berbee and SchoolMessenger to deliver a total communications solution, which facilitates effective collaboration within the campus environment and beyond.

Table 2 A Closer Look at Cisco Notifi-ED Partners

Cisco Partner	Partner Specialty
SchoolMessenger	<p><b>Leading automated parental notification system, featuring:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Centralized management; easy moves and changes</li> <li>Automatic calls for:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Absentee notification</li> <li>General announcements</li> <li>Emergency situations</li> <li>Homework and test information</li> </ul> </li> <li>Desktop, server, and hosted options</li> <li>Distribution of messages via web browser or phone</li> <li>Advanced text-to-speech and multiple language support</li> </ul>
Berbee	<p><b>Innovative InformaCast application for integrated paging, bells, alarms, and text alerts/messages; includes external speaker solution; also has a panic button for emergency notification. Berbee InformaCast allows organizations to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Simultaneously push audio streams and text messages to IP phones, IP speakers, desktops, and overhead paging systems</li> <li>Create live, ad hoc, or prerecorded audio broadcasts and/or text broadcasts</li> <li>Schedule messages to send at preset time or on recurring basis</li> <li>Use Bell Scheduler's calendar format for campuses or districts</li> <li>Integrate IP speakers to provide indoor/outdoor loudspeaker option</li> </ul>

### Total Solution Financing

Cisco Capital gives you access to the technology financing you need to deliver the next generation of services. By creating innovative, flexible financing, Cisco Capital bridges the gap between technology requirements and budget availability. It makes it easier for your institution to get the right technology without being constrained by your current budget cycle.



## Get Connected

Cisco works closely with schools, colleges, and universities to help create a connected way of living and learning. Cisco solutions give educational institutions the ability to create a connected, on-demand learning environment — removing barriers to communications, enabling real-time interactions, and expanding access. Education opportunities are everywhere. Our goal is to help make those connections happen by streamlining campus operations and giving you the tools to enable access for any device at any time. Our vision is a connected campus that inspires students, faculty, and staff to engage in lifelong learning.

To learn more, contact your Cisco representative and schedule a demonstration of Unified Communications products and applications, or read our *Technology in Schools Report* at: [www.cisco.com/go/education](http://www.cisco.com/go/education)



**Americas Headquarters**  
Cisco Systems, Inc.  
170 West Tasman Drive  
San Jose, CA 95134-1706  
USA  
[www.cisco.com](http://www.cisco.com)  
Tel: 408 526-4000  
800 553-NETS (6387)  
Fax: 408 527-0883

**Asia Pacific Headquarters**  
Cisco Systems (USA) Pte. Ltd.  
168 Robinson Road  
#28-01 Capital Tower  
Singapore 068912  
[www.cisco.com](http://www.cisco.com)  
Tel: +65 6317 7777  
Fax: +65 6317 7799

**Europe Headquarters**  
Cisco Systems International BV  
Haarlerbergpark  
Haarlerbergweg 13-19  
1101 CH Amsterdam  
The Netherlands  
[www-europe.cisco.com](http://www-europe.cisco.com)  
Tel: +31 0 800 020 0791  
Fax: +31 0 20 357 1100

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