



School District Provides Multicampus High-Speed Wireless

Orange County Public Schools improves quality of learning with 802.11n network.

Customer Name: **Orange County Public Schools**
Industry: **Education**
Location: **Orlando, FL**
Company Size: **21,349**

Business Impact

Benefits delivered by the Cisco® Unified Wireless Network include:

- Enhanced network availability and significantly decreased IT costs
- High-performance throughput for Wi-Fi devices and mobility applications
- Improved staff productivity and operational efficiency via untethered connectivity
- Increased teaching flexibility, resulting in higher quality of learning

Business Challenge

Orange County Public Schools (OCPS) is the nation's 11th largest school district, recognized by Newsweek magazine and Florida's Department of Education for providing "top of the class" quality education. With an increasing number of Wi-Fi devices and bandwidth-rich applications used by students and staff on its campuses, OCPS wanted to provide comprehensive, high-speed wireless coverage throughout its schools. "We had one or two 802.11 a/g autonomous access points deployed at each school, but that wasn't enough," says Myron Bryant, assistant director of Network Services at Orange County Public Schools. "We needed a high-performance wireless infrastructure that would span our entire district and help us deliver on our vision to be the top producer of successful students in the nation."

Solution and Results

OCPS selected the Cisco Unified Wireless Network, consisting of Cisco Aironet® 1140 and 1250 Series 802.11n access points, Cisco Wireless LAN Controllers, and the Cisco Wireless Control System (WCS) management platform. "We needed a rock-solid, reliable, and secure high-speed wireless infrastructure to support our entire district," says Bryant. "With Cisco WCS, the district's network services team can centrally control more than 1500 access points located throughout our 180 school campuses, plus other district facilities. This easy-to-use platform allows us to grow our wireless network without having to add staff."



Case Study

By beginning the install of Cisco's 802.11n solution, OCPS has significantly improved network availability and enhanced productivity. "Because the 802.11n network provides 300 Mbps, we can now support more devices running simultaneously—including wireless IP phones, PDAs, and our Computer Labs on Wheels—than we could before," says Bryant. "The network is more predictable, enabling faculty to work anywhere on campus. Wi-Fi, available pervasively indoors and outdoors across the district, has increased our staff's productivity substantially. Plus, the Cisco Unified Wireless Network enabled us to add secure and controlled guest access to provide wireless Internet access for visitors and at community events."

The Cisco Unified Wireless Network has helped OCPS enhance their quality of learning while lowering the school district's IT costs. By enabling wireless on desktops and adjusting the areas that require wired ports, OCPS increased flexibility in classrooms and reduced network provisioning costs by 50 percent, with opportunities for additional savings. "The wireless network gives our teachers the ability to easily rearrange their teaching space and equipment to create the most optimal learning environment for their students," says Bryant.

In addition, OCPS has installed Cisco wireless bridges to provide cost-effective wireless connectivity to portable buildings on several campuses. Saving at least \$400 per building connection, these bridges allow the district to quickly adjust to fluctuating student populations while avoiding cable run and tunneling costs.

"Overall, our 802.11n wireless network has made it easier for our staff to address adds, moves, and changes, resulting in a 20 percent reduction in network infrastructure labor costs," says Bryant.

"Our 802.11n, high-performance wireless network will play a significant role in helping us achieve our vision of delivering the highest quality of instruction to our students through one-to-one computing."

Myron Bryant

Assistant Director of Network Services at Orange County Public Schools

For more information on the Cisco Unified Wireless Network and 802.11n technology, visit:

<http://www.cisco.com/go/wireless>

To find out more about Orange County Public Schools, visit:

<https://www.ocps.net>