

# Texas School District Adopts New Tool for Flipped Learning



Denton Independent School District uses Show and Share to create equality in student achievement.

## Executive Summary

### Denton Independent School District

- **Industry:** K-12 Education
- **Location:** Denton, Texas
- **Number of Students:** 28,000

### CHALLENGE

- Engage in flipped learning movement to meet learning goals
- Update existing technology tools and resources
- Easily access and adopt new learning systems

### SOLUTION

- Upgraded education technology network with new video services
- Expanded learning outside of classroom walls and hours
- Used cloud to support more types of learning materials

### RESULTS

- Enabled digital resource sharing on and off campus
- Increased student access to learning content and engagement with teachers
- Allowed teachers to better instruct and help students excel at all learning levels

## Challenge

Denton Independent School District (ISD) in Denton, Texas spans over 180 square miles. The district includes 4 high schools, 7 middle schools, and 22 elementary schools. While Denton ISD provides the same programs as its large neighbor districts, Denton ISD's leaders strive to maintain a "small community environment," working together as a cohesive team.

With 28,000 students to serve, Denton ISD is no stranger to education technology; the district was an early adopter of advanced data center management tools and collaborative video technology. Understanding the correlation between technology and student success, Denton ISD wanted to offer those benefits not just to the most engaged and high achieving students but to all learners in the district, no matter their skill level. To create more differentiation in learning, and expand their adoption of education technology, Denton ISD looked to "flipped learning."

In a flipped classroom, instead of having teachers spend the majority of their time with the middle of the class (as opposed to students who are more advanced or those struggling and in need of remediation), the traditional model is inverted. With flipped learning, students have access to content before connecting with the teacher. The teacher records class materials and makes them available from any device or location outside of the classroom. In this way, students spend time with their instructors applying content, instead of acquiring knowledge. The initial research findings on flipped learning report greater engagement by students, more student-centered learning, and higher student outcomes.

"We live in an on-demand world," says Barry Fox, director of instructional technology at Denton ISD. "We turn on our televisions and consume content that we've recorded, and Denton believes it should embrace that character of our culture, and not fight it."

To implement flipped learning, Denton ISD looked to video and found that its platform for delivering content online could not support its efforts. Ernie Stripling, technology information officer at Denton ISD, and Fox knew that to advance learning they would not only have to upgrade their video platform, but also get teachers on board. To meet these challenges and advance learning, Fox and Stripling turned to Denton ISD's trusted technology partner, Cisco.

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**Barry Fox**, Director of Instructional Technology, Denton Independent School District

## Solution

Denton ISD has partnered with Cisco to deploy networking, voice, and wireless technology for education for a number of years. Due to this successful long-term relationship, Denton ISD looked to the Cisco team to bolster their existing technology network with tools to help the district engage in flipped learning.

Cisco introduced Stripling and Fox to Cisco Show and Share®, a webcasting and video-sharing application that helps organizations create highly secure video communities to share ideas and expertise. As the district’s video portal, Show and Share is a part of the Cisco® Capture-Transform-Share architecture. This enterprise video platform allows Denton ISD to expand recorded content to Cisco TelePresence®, Cisco WebEx®, and nearly any other video recording format.

Beyond a simple video portal, Show and Share also offered Denton ISD the ability to create its own content. As opposed to schools that engage in flipped learning and use pre-packaged materials, the instructors at Denton ISD wanted to build their own lesson content to meet the district’s learning targets and also address the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills, which are the state standards for what students should know and be able to do.

“Show and Share was the only platform that allowed us to address differentiation in learning,” says Fox. “Not everyone learns the same way, and some kids need to see and hear content differently. Cisco has helped us to offer what we need to advance learning at all levels with enhanced control and security.”

After developing instructional materials, teachers use Cisco Show and Share to upload their content to the cloud and share materials with students in a secure environment independently owned by the district. In their flipped model, students at Denton ISD also pose questions to each other, working groups, and the teachers. “Show and Share provides a self-paced, asynchronous model so that students don’t have to be exposed to content at a designated time,” says Fox. “Some learners want to re-engage right after school, and others prefer to access their content later at night, and now they have that choice.”

Denton ISD also adopted Cisco Show and Share for uses outside of flipped learning. “We highly value that this platform is robust enough to handle live events,” says Fox. “Even though many users see the solution as a way to curate content, we also adopted it to engage in broadcast activities, diversifying the way we’re interacting with our students.”

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## Results

For the instructors at Denton ISD, any fear of the new technology disappeared once they saw how much students were benefitting from flipped learning, and experienced how easy the technology was to use. For many teachers, the introduction of Show and Share also allows them to interact with their colleagues in new ways, giving students the chance to listen to lessons from other instructors and follow the instructor who is best suited for the way the student understands content.

With Cisco Show and Share as a part of the curriculum, learners can pause, rewind, re-watch, and go over content, allowing some students to move faster within a lesson and others to take more time to understand a concept. “Once our teachers saw that Show and Share was benefiting the kids, they picked it up more quickly,” says Fox. “Students are benefiting from the platform, because not every learner progresses in the same way, and most kids work at their own pace.”

Students are also documenting and creating their own content. “Flipped learning is a great method for visual learners, and today’s elementary school students, who are adopting a gaming mentality more and more,” says Fox. “It’s easy for them to document through video, because they are already wired for that type of content.”

While Cisco Show and Share is the primary tool for flipped learning, it also integrates into Denton ISD’s Google+ pages, website, and learning management system. In addition, users can share materials in the cloud with other schools, enabling new ways for teachers to bring content into their lessons. Denton ISD is also using Show and Share for campus announcements in its elementary schools, as well as teacher broadcasts through live video streams, which meets students and faculty where they are in real-time.

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## Product List

### VIDEO

- Cisco Capture-Transform-Share
- Cisco Show and Share
- Cisco TelePresence
- Cisco Jabber
- Cisco WebEx

## Next Steps

To increase the impact of flipped learning, Denton ISD is working to make every teacher in the district able to not only create content, but have the ability to publish that content. Currently, publishers (principals or curriculum coordinators) must approve teacher content as a security measure, but Stripling and Fox are working to empower teachers even more in the future.

The district also hopes to leverage all of the capabilities from the Cisco Capture-Transform-Share enterprise. For teachers using Cisco Jabber™, an interactive tool for presence, instant messaging, voice, video, voice messaging, desktop sharing, and conferencing, these functions will give them desktop or mobile access to Cisco TelePresence endpoints so they can record education events or stream them live.

“We don’t want teachers to be dissuaded from publishing their own content,” says Fox. “Our teachers are very excited about the benefits so far with flipped learning, and we are engaging with Cisco to obtain more publisher licenses so we can bring even more instructors on board.”

## For More Information

To find out more about Cisco Show and Share, go to:  
<http://www.cisco.com/go/showandshare>

