



Inspiring excellence with technology access

Morris Elementary School District 54 supports its one-to-one initiative with high-density, 802.11ac Wi-Fi.

“We now have the right infrastructure to support a successful one-to-one program. The impact has been incredible.”

- Dr. Teri Shaw, Superintendent, Morris Elementary School District 54

Morris Elementary School District 54 has big plans for its students. To prepare them for high school and beyond, the district puts technology in their hands as early as possible, beginning with Apple iPad carts and interactive whiteboards in the earliest grades.

Challenges

- Support 450 Chromebooks at elementary school with robust Wi-Fi to support the growing influx of Wi-Fi clients
- Partner with experts in educational technology for design and services
- Determine best practices for rolling out one-to-one program at middle school

“We want to prepare our students to succeed in a changing world, and empower teachers to use technology effectively in their curriculum and lesson plans,” says Dr. Teri Shaw, superintendent, Morris Elementary School District 54.

As the district prepared to launch a one-to-one initiative at White Oak Elementary School in which every student in grades 3 through 5 were given a Chromebook, the school’s legacy Wi-Fi network presented a bottleneck. Out of 450 Chromebooks, only 5 could connect successfully in a single Wi-Fi coverage area.

“We learned very quickly that we couldn’t have an effective one-to-one rollout without the infrastructure to support the number of devices we have,” says Shaw. “We needed to change gears and recover quickly before our one-to-one initiative turned into an epic failure.”

Case Study | Morris Elementary School District 54

Size: 1,300 Students, 85 Employees

Location: Morris, Illinois

Industry: Education



State-of-the-art wireless mobility solution allows students and staff to connect easily.

Solutions

- Hired Unified Concepts, a Cisco® partner, to design and deploy a new solution using 802.11ac Wi-Fi
- Replaced Extreme Networks equipment with Cisco wireless controller and access points
- Used Cisco Catalyst® switches for network core and edge

A responsive partner saves the day

Unified Concepts installed the new solution over a weekend, making sure that the network could support 450 Chromebooks at White Oak Elementary and provide excellent Wi-Fi performance.

“Our partnerships with Unified Concepts and Cisco helped turn things around,” says Shaw. “They put our one-to-one program on the right track and gave us a path forward. If we need to add more Chromebooks, we can simply add more access points.”

Impacting student achievement

Students are now using their Chromebooks to enhance learning in all disciplines, empowering them to take charge of their own education.

“Students from the one-to-one program are coming to board meetings and showing us what they can do with the Chromebooks,” says Shaw. “They’re excited and engaged.”



Enabling new approaches to education

Teachers are embedding new tools and methods into their curriculum, including e-books, interactive typing tutors, and online resources to supplement lessons.

A hit with students

When asked about their experiences with the one-to-one program, elementary school students didn’t hold back.

“I love how fast and simple it is.”

“My favorite part is working on activities with classmates.”

“It’s fun to see how fast I can type and whether I’m improving or not.”

“Last year we didn’t have Chromebooks and had to use boring old paper. I think it’s pretty cool we get to use them this year.”





Results

- Improves Wi-Fi experience for students and staff, enabling a successful one-to-one program
- Empowers students to take change of their learning pace and methods
- Positions district to teach hands-on technology skills from an early age

A blueprint for success

The district plans to roll out a similar Wi-Fi solution at its Shabbona Middle School so that students can carry their digital learning experience all the way to high school. Unified Concepts will deploy the solution and provide ongoing support.

“We’re creating the future here by teaching real-world technology skills,” says Shaw. “The high school will have to be ready for these kids!”

Products & Services

Wireless and Mobility

- Cisco Aironet™ 3700 Series access points with integrated 802.11ac
- Cisco 5508 Wireless Controller

Routing and Switching

- Cisco Catalyst 3750-X Series Switches
- Cisco Catalyst 2960-X Series Switches

Network Management

- Cisco Prime™ Infrastructure

Security

- Cisco Identity Services Engine (ISE)



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