

Save the Day with Platform-Based Infrastructure



When you tackle traditional technology pain points in education—such as cybersecurity or connectivity—and lead transformative initiatives that accelerate digital transformation, you can enhance the experience for all, both inside and outside each classroom in your district.

Capes optional

During the pandemic, IT teams accomplished the seemingly impossible by quickly transforming K-12 schools from classroom-only teaching environments to virtual hubs of education.

“IT were the heroes in the past 12 months...”

JOHN GALLANT

Senior Vice President and Chief Content Officer at IDG, during [Meraki Network](#) in 2021



Tackling hurdles

Having addressed that crisis, you're now turning to many familiar pain points, like the battle over budgets, digital transformation, plus physical security and cybersecurity.

Fortunately, just as cloud-based technologies helped bring lessons to students outside classroom walls, today's cloud-first technologies can assist as you combat these concerns. They also can provide new benefits to your team and your district.

Let's look at how IT professionals can continue to save the day—and discover other positive outcomes for the students, teachers, administrators, parents, and staff you support.



BUDGETS



DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION



PHYSICAL SECURITY



CYBERSECURITY

Looking skyward

Over the past year or so, K-12 districts heavily invested in cloud technologies to accelerate the adoption of virtual learning and ease administrator and teacher access to resources.

In fact, by 2026, the worldwide market for cloud computing in education will reach \$67.1 billion, increasing at a compound annual growth rate of 22.4% from \$19.6 billion in 2020.

Most likely you also addressed bandwidth issues at your schools, with many districts surpassing the Federal Communications Commission's standards. Perhaps you are one of the amazing leaders who equipped school buses with access points or brought Wi-Fi to school parking lots, parks, and other common areas across town to make it easier for your students to learn when school buildings were closed.

Now, you can use the same decentralized architectures that helped connect teachers with students as the framework for new value-added experiences across your district.



Show me the money

Your ability to leverage technologies for multiple purposes has perhaps never been as important as today.

Your ability to find multiple ways to use cloud architecture has perhaps also never been as important, as some districts face learning losses by students and others must address teacher shortages.

But an infusion of funds from the federal government is helping districts address technological needs. With these federal monies, your district can now not only improve the safety of students and faculty but also enhance reporting and analytics.

For example, smart devices like cameras and sensors use built-in analytics to impart insight into network performance, classroom density, and traffic patterns, informing decisions about everything from technology troubleshooting and new after-school programs to parking planning and staffing decisions.

Making up for lessons lost

Although many parents and students are happy about the return to classroom-led lessons, some schools continue to offer a variety of hybrid teaching. Equipped with new tools, schools can curate the best learning environment for each student and subject, and potentially accelerate the education process.

However, during the pandemic, districts were challenged to provide remote support to students and families, and

61% of IT departments were unprepared for this task.



By using a cloud-first platform that provides transparency across disparate devices connected to the network, IT professionals have clear visibility into potential problems.

Schalmont Central School District manages the entire network for its approximately 1,800 students via one centralized dashboard, and can quickly change something in the network if there is a problem. Improved insight dramatically reduces troubleshooting needs, creating a better employee and user experience.





Safe and sound

When it comes to securing people, places, and things, a growing number of school districts are using cloud-based [smart cameras](#) to monitor their hallways, classrooms, parking lots, and other areas. While these devices watch and record, they also use analytics and applications for safety precautions like contact tracing and mustering.

Some districts leverage [sensors](#) to monitor changes in temperature and humidity, among other things. These sensors alert to fires or floods, and help protect areas sensitive to water damage, like data centers and computer labs.

Within computers and networks themselves, school districts are no less susceptible to cybersecurity threats than any other industry, unfortunately. As an IT leader, you know the precautions you take to prevent students from accessing unauthorized websites and topics. More scrutiny and, potentially, assistance will come to the sector after the signing of the [K-12 Cybersecurity Act of 2021](#).

That's critical, since criminals view children's personal information as an attractive target. Staff or other students may access unauthorized information or inadvertently click on ransomware or phishing links. Using seamless security practices and technologies that are the same, regardless of device or location, helps build a secure district—and help mold a generation of security-conscious students.

A combination of cloud-based endpoint and network security solutions empowers everyone on and off school grounds and across cafeterias, gymnasiums, and parking lots. With a centralized dashboard, your team can easily create, change, and delete device profiles, enable web content filtering, and assign custom group policies, raising the level of physical security and cybersecurity for your entire school district.

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By addressing your main pain points—and by keeping each student, administrator, and teacher at the forefront of every major deployment decision—you are positioned to continue delivering districtwide excellence that improves experiences across each of your schools

It is, after all, what today's IT heroes are known for doing.

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Meraki enables your team of super heroes to deliver next-generation education fueled by the cloud.