Decatur County Schools
Built a network to support advanced technology and the evolving world of devices based on vendor trust and reliable products.

Decatur County School District, located in southwest Georgia, was building a new high school when the need to add to their IT infrastructure and phone system. The main driver was to assure reliable access, connectivity and communication. Cost was an additional concern: the chosen solution required long term investment protection and support to expand technology use across the district. The Alcatel-Lucent Enterprise Ethernet network, wireless network and communications solutions delivered the expected benefits and created easy and secure access with greater collaboration to over 5,800 users.

CHALLENGES
Investment has always been a priority for Decatur Schools. At the time the district was adding a new high school, Decatur was a “Cisco shop.” The IT infrastructure update was exceeding the planned budget. Decatur Schools IT lead, Steve Dunn, knew the next phase would include a new call server and an expansion of WLAN for the district’s 1:1 Chromebook initiative. Decatur Schools would require consistency, support for an evolving world of devices and ease of management across the district to maximize their small IT staff. They also wanted to meet the expectations of its users to see technology like a light switch - flip the switch and it works.

ACTION
Due to financial constraints, Decatur Schools expanded its technology in phases. Working with business partners Micro Technology Consultants (infrastructure) and Morse Communications (telephony), Decatur acquired Alcatel-Lucent Enterprise standards-based technology products that met their needs and would also offer long term investment. The Alcatel-Lucent OmniSwitch® solutions assured network reliability for expanding technology use across the district. The Alcatel-Lucent OmniAccess® Stellar Wireless Access Points supported additional devices like cameras, fire alarms and intercoms, along with the district’s 1:1 learning initiative enabling teachers to collaborate more with students via their devices.

PRODUCTS AND SOLUTIONS
Alcatel-Lucent OmniAccess® Stellar Wireless Access Points
Alcatel-Lucent OmniSwitch® 6900
Alcatel-Lucent OmniSwitch® 6860-E
Alcatel-Lucent OmniSwitch® 6560
Alcatel-Lucent OmniSwitch® 6450

RESULTS
Technical Benefits
• Stellar APs offer reliable connectivity and complete coverage
• Entry level IT staff comfortable with configuring network
• Standards based technology across the ALE portfolio assures integration
• Network MAC authentication protects against the use of personal devices

Financial Benefits
• ALE products provide longevity with standards-based technology and solid Total Cost of Ownership
• Secured long term investment and overcame budget constraints with eRate funding

User Experience Benefits
• Collaboration between Teachers and students improved as devices connect to classroom projector via the network
• Stellar wireless network adequately supports the 1:1 learning initiative and delivers better overall user experience

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