

Parsons District Schools USD 503

Investing in a modern digital learning environment with trusted sources

“The guidance from Twotrees and the ALE solutions help us to pivot and serve our staff and students the way we want. We also see the value of investment. We wouldn’t have near the amount of equipment and breadth of network going with Cisco products.”

Ben McGuire, IT Director
Parsons District Schools USD 503

Parsons District Schools USD 503, located in Southeast Kansas, has a diverse ethnic and economic K-12 population of more than 1300 students. The district is strategic in its IT investments for three elementary grade schools, one middle school and one high school.

CHALLENGES

Like many K-12 districts, Parsons schools strive to maximize a small budget while creating a modern digital learning environment. To do so, the district has relied on the E-Rate program and a mindful IT staff who manage to keep network switch refreshes to every five to eight years. With reliable infrastructure (LAN and WLAN) and increased bandwidth in place, the district was prepared for a shift to remote learning in early 2020 and then adjust again 12 months later, to support a full one-to-one program that increased its Internet usage by 80 percent.

ACTION

Integrator [Twotrees Technologies](#) worked with Parsons over the years guiding them with advice and quality networking solutions. When Parsons moved many of its services to the cloud and launched a new digital curriculum, Twotrees assessed network traffic flows and connectivity. Leveraging E-Rate funding, a LAN infrastructure refresh with Alcatel-Lucent OmniSwitch® 6560 switches and Alcatel-Lucent OmniAccess® Stellar Access Points was delivered. To aid their five IT staffers, the district invested in the Alcatel-Lucent OmniVista® 2500 Network Management System automating security and quarantine while also providing the analytics needed to operate the district.

Parsons long equipment lifecycles means they value support options greater than five years, and the individual attention they receive working with a partner like Twotrees and vendor like Alcatel-Lucent Enterprise.

PRODUCTS AND SOLUTIONS

[Alcatel-Lucent OmniSwitch 6560 Switches](#)
[Alcatel-Lucent OmniAccess Stellar Access Points](#)
[Alcatel-Lucent OmniVista Network Management System](#)

RESULTS

Technical Benefits

- OmniSwitch product delivers performance and reliability
- OmniAccess Stellar wireless network improved classroom coverage for 1:1 project
- Network management and product updates simplified with OmniVista NMS
- OmniSwitch VLAN configuration supports communications network across the district
- Deployed PoE across the district

Financial Benefits

- ALE technology and E-Rate provide affordable on-going technology investment
- Affordable network refresh every 5-8 years
- Switches are reliable and rarely fail which equals cost savings

User Experience Benefits

- Teachers and students benefit from new teaching options the network has enabled
- The OmniVista Network Management platform enables IT staff to be more productive

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Customer Story

MARKET: EDUCATION

COUNTRY: USA

COMPANY: PARSONS
SCHOOLS DISTRICT

DEAL IMPLEMENTED: SPRING 2022

NUMBER OF USERS: 1300+