

Rockville School District Enhancing the learning environment through connectivity

“We not only teach *with* technology, we *teach* technology. With ALE we assure that when the networks run smooth, learning runs smooth.”

Mike Anderson, Director of Technology

Rockville Centre School District (RVC) is widely recognized as one of the top performing school districts in the state of New York and the country. With seven K-12 schools serving approximately 3500 students and an 11-to-1 student-to-teacher ratio, RVC has focused on technology to ignite their students' passion for learning.

CHALLENGES

Schools are often faced with budget challenges and need to make hard decisions. RVC chose to save money on paper and books, using the savings to provide a tablet to each student in grades 4-12. Implementing this 'one-to-one device to student relationship' (i.e., 1:1 program) required an adaptable, reliable and scalable wireless local area network (WLAN) where each room, in every building - including large group instruction locations like the gym, cafeteria, and auditoriums - could offer reliable Wi-Fi access. That meant over 300 additional WLAN access points were needed across the district.

In the meantime, RVC had added classrooms at the high school and needed to expand the phone network. The goal was to have a phone in every classroom. To do this they leveraged the existing Alcatel-Lucent PBX system to integrate new IP phones with the existing digital handsets while delivering the same features such as conference calling and dial-by-name directory assistance.

PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

Alcatel-Lucent OmniSwitch® 6900
Alcatel-Lucent OmniSwitch® 6860
Alcatel-Lucent OmniSwitch® 6450
Alcatel-Lucent OmniAccess® Access Points
Alcatel-Lucent OmniVista® 2500 Network Management System
Alcatel-Lucent IP, digital and softphones
Alcatel-Lucent Emergency Notification Server

WHAT MADE THE DIFFERENCE?

Total cost of ownership, feature set and capabilities were paramount for RCV in the decision to select Alcatel-Lucent Enterprise. RVC sought out a high performance and highly reliable networking experience at a minimal cost, and as a bonus was able to leverage the synergy of the LAN/WLAN and the features of the communications system all from one vendor.

> TECHNICAL BENEFITS

When implementing a 1:1 program, WLAN design is a critical component. RVC deployed a dedicated access point in each classroom to ensure teachers and students remain connected throughout the building. ALE's solution provides sticky client avoidance, load balancing, fast roaming, voice/video awareness and security. The ALE solution also provides automated features, making network management easier for IT.

> FINANCIAL BENEFITS

Schools are always watching budgets, with total cost of ownership a paramount concern. With a hybrid phone system, RVC was able to add phones only where needed, and implement soft-phone pilots over the new WLAN.

> USER EXPERIENCE BENEFITS

As part of the 1:1 program, RVC can extend the school day for students, allowing them to log in from home, access the internal network, submit homework, and message teachers. In addition, while remotely connected to the district, internet access is filtered, protecting against inappropriate content.

This deployment has enabled them to implement *teaching with technology* that has resulted in a positive effect throughout the typical school day for students, faculty, staff, and administration.

Customer Story

MARKET: EDUCATION
PROJECT DATE: 2019

COUNTRY: UNITED STATES
NUMBER OF USERS: 3200

COMPANY:
ROCKVILLE CENTRE
SCHOOL DISTRICT