

# California School District Enables Mobile Learning



Coast Unified School District installed Cisco network to promote student engagement through mobile devices and wireless access.

## Executive Summary

### Coast Unified School District

- **Industry:** Education
- **Location:** Cambria, California
- **Student Population:** 750

### CHALLENGE

- Support mobile learning environment
- Upgrade network and wireless capabilities
- Support district-owned iPads and BYOD on network

### SOLUTION

- Updated antiquated network infrastructure
- Installed wireless, switches, and access points to support new services
- Integrated Apple TV with network

### RESULTS

- Achieved wireless, connected campus to support anytime, anywhere learning
- Established one-to-one mobile learning model in grades 6-12
- Supported 500-600 devices on network each day

## Challenge

With 750 students across five schools, Coast Unified School District (Coast USD) strives to provide the community of Cambria, California with a quality and forward-thinking educational experience. As mobile devices continue to become more prevalent among students and teachers, Coast USD wanted to embrace rather than restrict the trend, recognizing the potential for student engagement that a wireless campus could provide.

The district established a goal of providing students with a one-to-one (1:1) learning environment for greater student engagement, and invested in iPads and Apple TVs for its 6-12 grade classrooms. Additionally, a bring-your-own-device (BYOD) policy was established to encourage learning anytime, anywhere both on and off the campus.

To support a wireless and mobility initiative, the district has to rejuvenate its infrastructure. With the help of E-Rate funding, the district secured US\$1 million to upgrade the network infrastructure and wireless throughout its schools.

An underlying benefit to establishing robust wireless capabilities ties back to preparations for upcoming Common Core State Standards, an education initiative in the United States that details what K-12 students should know in English and math at the end of each grade. Enabled by the grant and network overhaul, Coast USD prepared to lay the foundation for future Common Core testing and other capabilities hosted online.

To take full advantage of the potential that these devices and the Apple TVs could offer, Coast USD needed to achieve specific configurations within the network to create a compatible environment for all devices.

## Solution

Coast USD turned to Cisco to establish the district's network and wireless foundation to support its mobility and 1:1 initiatives. Service and support are an integral part of a successful IT implementation, and throughout the process, Coast USD worked closely with the Cisco support team to establish compatibility between the network and Apple TV to promote the district's 1:1 learning initiative goals.

Making the decision to implement Cisco® technology over others came down to service, the team's willingness to work directly with the district's IT staff to properly support its investment in Apple technology, and the district's history with integrating the technology into its curriculum. Ultimately, Coast USD began its deployment of Cisco wireless to support its mobile initiatives and create a more connected campus.

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Henry Danielson, Technology Director,  
Coast Unified School District

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The project spanned six months from planning to completion of the implementation. Coast USD’s IT staff worked through summer months when classes were not in session to complete the deployment, putting in place wireless, controllers, firewalls, switches, and access points across the campus. By the start of the 2014 school year, the district was equipped with its upgraded network.

## Results

Since the network infrastructure was updated, Coast USD has been able to realize its goal of providing a mobile-centric, anytime, anywhere learning environment for its students. The wireless capabilities and integration with Apple TV have powered the district’s 1:1 initiative, and encouraged greater interaction during lessons.

Students in grades 6-12 are each equipped with a school-issued iPad, which they are permitted to take home to extend the learning experience. During class, each iPad is connected directly to an Apple TV, which instructors utilize during lessons. At any time during the lesson, students have the ability to ask questions through the devices. Teachers receive the request and can allow a student to override the lesson, sending the question to the main screen, and enabling for real-time instruction and clarification of challenging concepts. This approach offers students deeper instruction on common issues and gives students greater knowledge through the interaction.

Cisco wireless was also installed in the common areas of Coast USD’s campus and extended into the parking lot to offer students and community members the opportunity to engage anywhere. This widespread deployment increases access for students who may not have wireless at home, and provides greater opportunities to complete assignments and research.

Teachers have also benefitted from the IT deployment through professional development and training about how best to leverage devices in the classroom. Students and teachers are able to view lesson plans and educational tips through wireless to help prepare for exams and future Common Core assessments.

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## Product List

### Routing and Switching

- Cisco Catalyst 3560 Series Switches

### Security

- Cisco Adaptive Security Appliance (ASA)

### Wireless

- Cisco Wireless LAN Controller
- Cisco AIR-CAP3502 Access Points

Since the implementation, 21st century learning has become a reality as wireless capabilities and mobile devices in the classrooms afford students the opportunity to have an educational experience beyond the classroom.

In 2013, Coast USD was awarded the Apple Distinguished School Award, one of just 25 in the state of California to receive the honor.

“The students, teachers and community at large are excited by the greater connections, interactions and opportunities made possible by the mobility and 1:1 initiatives,” says Danielson. “Our district is now positioned for success to continue leveraging technology to enhance curriculum, provide resources to our educators, and promote student engagement.”

## For More Information

To find out more about Cisco Wireless, go to: <http://www.cisco.com/go/cs-wireless>.