

Syracuse City School District builds smarter schools and a safer community with IBM point-of-sale and infrastructure systems

Overview
Syracuse City School District Syracuse, New York www.syracusecityschools.com
Industry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Education, Retail (Food Service)
General Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enterprise Account
Employees <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1,000 +
Products <ul style="list-style-type: none"> IBM SurePOS™ 500 Point-of-Sale IBM SurePOS™ 500 Express IBM SureMark™ Printer IBM System x™ IBM Wireless and Broadband Solutions IBM Global Technology Services
IBM Business Partner <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Systems Technology Group, Inc. (STG)



“IBM systems are the backbone of our technology infrastructure. They make it possible for us to improve our learning environment and channel the money we save into new teaching programs.”

— Mary Ellen Killenbec,
 Director of Information Services
 and Technology, SCSD

Syracuse City School District is the fourth largest school system in the state of New York with more than 20,000 students. IBM integrated systems connect the city’s 35 schools with state-of-the-art programs and services that increase student achievement, reduce operational cost and manage risk – including improving safety in the surrounding communities.

Challenge

Faced with rising standards and dwindling budgets, the Syracuse School District wanted to reinvent its learning environment to not only improve academic performance and reduce costs, but also benefit the entire community. The school system’s vision was to use technology in new, out-of-the box ways to share and expand programs and services across the 35 school sites.

Solution

IBM tackled the unique work assignment for the school district by deploying a dynamic network that today enables a host of advanced technologies throughout the 35 school campuses. These range from wireless and broadband communications that are advancing instructional innovations, student involvement and accountability, to cafeterias systems that reduce labor cost and maximize program income, to linkages with city departments that enhance IT and personnel efficiencies.

The network is the centerpiece for a unique collaboration between the school district and the Syracuse Police Department that today helps the city reduce process and staff redundancies and improve public safety. It is the “hinge pin” for sharing digital surveillance video and wireless hotspots around each school building. The project has fostered cooperation between city groups that extends beyond technology. It creates greater efficiencies around the use of city assets and opens the way for future community partnerships.

Syracuse schools also depend on the intelligent, inter-connected network in the cafeterias. IBM Business Partner Systems Technology Group, Inc. of Buffalo, NY, replaced PC cash drawer systems with IBM SurePOS 500 solutions to improve service and to insure accountability to government food programs. Since implementing the smarter system, the schools are monitoring student diet requirements and tracking meal payment plans. The school district is reducing labor cost and increasing funding through government subsidies.

Benefits

- Improves service through a highly secure network that provides visibility to information, control to allow quick reaction to current issues without disrupting operations and automation to speed service delivery
- Lowers operational costs with efficient, resilient, industry-standard solutions and real time access to data
- Manages risk by safely processing and leveraging confidential data through workload optimized IBM solutions that are scalable and secure with long term viability



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