

Coachella Valley USD Encourages 24/7 Learning with Mobile Devices Managed by AirWatch

The Client

Coachella Valley Unified School District (CVUSD) has been educating students for 120 years. The California district, which is larger than the state of Rhode Island, includes 24 schools: 14 elementary schools, four middle schools, two comprehensive high schools, a continuation high school, a middle high school and a large adult education school.

CVUSD employs 2,000 staff members and serves 26,000 students, the majority of which come from underprivileged families. Despite the challenges its students face, CVUSD has earned a reputation for implementing innovative programs and retaining outstanding staff.



The Challenge

On Nov. 6, 2012, voters in Coachella passed Measure X, also known as the Coachella Valley Unified School District Mobile Learning Initiative. Measure X allowed for the sale of bonds to raise a proposed \$20.5 million (in the first phase) to fund a deployment of 20,000 iPads® to every CVUSD student and teacher, along with the technology infrastructure to enable students to connect and learn all day, every day. The district has another 20.5 million in bonds that will be sold to sustain the program over the next six to eight years.

Measure X was developed by CVUSD as a mobile learning initiative, which recognizes that to be successful, students must acquire a set of technology-focused skills to prepare them for college, career and citizenship. CVUSD leadership believes that intelligently using technology in the classroom would give students a competitive advantage and help them achieve the necessary skills to live successfully in 'the real world'. "Our student body includes undocumented immigrants, ESL learners, and residents of rural, Internet-free areas," said Dr. Darryl S. Adams, superintendent, CVUSD. "For many students, this may be the only chance they have to develop the technology skills required to succeed in the 21st century."

To manage and secure the district's rapidly growing mobile fleet, Dr. Adams began the search for a new enterprise mobility management provider (EMM). Prior to Measure X, CVUSD used an EMM solution, but experienced a number of information security breaches. "It took a lot of manpower to resolve these issues and the solution could not keep up with

Solution Overview

- Client: Coachella Valley Unified School District
- Industry: Education
- Geography: North America
- Features: MDM, MAM, MEM
- Devices: 10,000 – 20,000



our direction or demands,” explained Dr. Adams. “We sought a reliable EMM solution that could scale with our increasing device count. Device management is essential to protecting students while still allowing them to browse the Internet and experience e-learning.”

The Solution

CVUSD learned about AirWatch[®] by VMware[®] through other California school districts. After evaluating a number of EMM solutions, Dr. Adams and the district’s IT team selected AirWatch due to its ease-of-use and flexibility. Since passing Measure X, the district has deployed 17,000 iPads and iPhones[®] throughout its schools, which students and teachers use for email, calendar, curriculum, teaching and learning activities, texting, Internet browsing and record keeping. According to Dr. Adams, CVUSD management and employees have had a positive response to AirWatch. “Mobility makes the difference in how we teach and how students learn. With devices managed by AirWatch, students have the ability to learn 24/7,” he said. “We see the success of our mobile initiative every day through our students, who now have access to the same resources as students from more affluent communities. They have a new sense of the importance of education and the opportunities inherent in being connected and able to communicate, collaborate, create and think critically.”

The opportunity to use iPads in the classroom gives Coachella students something to look forward to and serves as motivation to attend school on a regular basis. “Students now feel education is much more relevant because we can customize their learning with mobile devices,” said Dr. Adams of another benefit of ‘going mobile’. “Since implementing AirWatch, we’ve seen improved attendance, which in turn has increased our average daily attendance and brought in additional revenue for our district.” Parents of CVUSD students are encouraged to play an active role in the district’s mobility initiative. “We are using mobility to get parents involved like never before,” said Dr. Adams. “Parents always have access to their child’s iPad, and we offer classes to educate them on the use of mobile devices, which has been a great success,” he explained.

Up Next

By the end of April 2014, the district will have deployed 20,000 devices – one for every student from pre-school through high school. The entire Wi-Fi infrastructure will be ready by June 2014, making CVUSD the first school district in the nation to provide mobile devices financed by a public vote and the sale of G.O. bonds.

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– Dr. Darryl S. Adams
Superintendent
CVUSD

