

Jefferson County Public Schools streamlines management and unifies the classroom experience with Chromebooks

At Jefferson County Public Schools (JCPS), just two IT leaders manage Chromebooks for over 100,000 students, 6,300 teachers, and 13,700 staff. Having schools on a single operating system, and the broad adoption of Chromebooks, has helped improve teaching and learning and streamlined IT management.

Why Chromebooks for teachers?

- Save 2 hours of new device training (per teacher) & achieve overall faster device deployment to teachers and students.
- Teachers can create easily accessible individualized instruction resources for students with native ChromeOS apps like Screencast.
- Chromebooks help to make device troubleshooting less disruptive during class instruction.
- Chromebooks' affordability helps "future proof" device planning.

Jefferson County Public Schools is the largest school district in Kentucky. With just two IT leaders managing devices for 100,000+ students and 6,300 teachers, the district needs secure education solutions that are easy for teachers and students to use and simple for IT to manage.

JCPS began moving about 1,600 teachers from Windows devices to Chromebooks in 2018. Refreshing and rolling out new Chromebooks to 100,000+ students during the pandemic helped accelerate the conversion for teachers and staff, with >80% of teachers on Chromebooks by 2022. The district invested in 5,850 powerful Dell Latitude 5400 Chromebook teacher devices, adding 1,650 high-performance advanced-use Chromebooks for teachers, bringing teacher Chromebook adoption to 96% by 2023.



"Chromebooks totally revolutionized the way we do business. When teachers were on Windows systems, they needed two or more hours of training when they received a new device. We no longer need that time because Chromebooks are so simple to use — teachers can get started immediately."

— Kermit Belcher, CIO & Asst. Superintendent, JCPS

While saving time for IT staff and teachers, the switch to Chromebooks has also enhanced teaching and learning. "The biggest selling point for teachers," Dr. Belcher says, "now you have the same environment as your students. When a student runs into an issue on their Chromebook, the teacher can quickly resolve it without contacting IT support, since the teacher is also familiar with the Chrome operating system. Ultimately, having the whole class on Chromebooks means less disruption to teacher instruction."





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– LaPorsha West, a social studies teacher at Grace M. James Academy of Excellence



A unified teaching and learning experience

Like any school district introducing new technologies, JCPS leaders wanted to minimize time demands and stress on teachers. Though some teachers were hesitant to switch from Windows devices, once they saw the benefits of ChromeOS, they embraced the speed, simplicity, and versatility of the new system.

LaPorsha West, a social studies teacher at Grace M. James Academy of Excellence, explains that having access to the same tools as her students, by being on the same operating system, makes it easier for her to deliver individualized instruction.

"Since having teachers on Chromebooks in addition to students, it's become much easier for me to differentiate my lessons, tailoring them to my students' abilities. I can use Screencast,* which comes built into my teacher Chromebook, to record myself teaching lessons for students at different levels. Then I share the different videos with the groups of students — making sure each group is getting the lesson tailored to their needs. Students get the video because they're also using Chromebooks and have access to Screencast. Being able to work together in the same tools just makes the teaching and learning experience easier."

Dr Kermit Belcher, Chief Information Officer agrees that in addition to streamlining management and creating a unified classroom experience, moving teachers onto Chromebooks was also an investment in the future.

"We're more efficient, doing more with less staff," he explains. "We've put ourselves in a position to sustain what we created."

As COVID-era federal funding sources come to an end, having an easy to manage and affordable fleet of devices for both students and staff means that JCPS can be confident that they will be able to continue supporting their teachers and students for the foreseeable future.

JCPS facts (Public school district)



Total district enrollment
100K+ students



Number of schools
165



Number of teachers
6,300 teachers



Grades Served
Pre-K – 12



Chromebooks in use
100K+ to students; 20,000+ teachers and staff