



Transforming the classroom with touch monitors

Webster Central School District keeps the focus on students with monitors that provide instant access to learning resources while cutting costs and reducing IT issues by 90 percent



K-12 Education

United States`

Business needs

To ensure its teachers and students have shared, on-demand access to digital-learning resources in classrooms, Webster Central School District needed to replace its districtwide SMART Boards with devices that offered faster performance, greater reliability and flexibility, and lower costs.

Solutions at a glance

- [Dell 70 interactive conference room monitors - C7017T with wall mounts](#)

Business results

- On-demand access to digital resources
- Up to 10 people at a time can work on a monitor, instead of just one
- Yearly savings by using monitors instead of SMART Boards
- Greater screen visibility and flexibility to connect third-party devices
- 90% reduction in daily trouble tickets
- 81% faster installation

“Teachers and students love that they can power up a Dell monitor and start instruction right away.”

Brian Zimmer

Director of Educational Technology and Information, Webster Central School District

A decade ago, K–12 schools underwent a radical change by adopting technologies such as digital boards. Today, districts are helping to improve student outcomes by taking advantage of emerging digital monitors to give teachers even better options for classroom interactivity and efficiency.

New York’s Webster Central School District (CSD) is a leader in using technology for transformative learning. However, its SMART Boards and accompanying projectors were slow to power up. They also needed frequent recalibration, and the proprietary platform hindered connectivity with devices. Brian Zimmer, director of educational technology and information at Webster CSD, says, “We’d get calls saying, ‘I have a guest presenter and nothing is working.’” There were also increasing hardware failures. “Our SMART Boards accounted for more than half of all our trouble tickets, and we had to replace the bulb on every projector about once a year. The platform’s new site-based license would also take about one-third of our software budget, which didn’t make sense.”

After an extensive evaluation of digital classroom-display options, Webster CSD chose Dell monitors. “Up to 10 people can use Dell monitors because they have 10-point touch,” says Zimmer. “They don’t have an operating system, which means teachers don’t have to learn one more thing, and we keep our options open for future IT. The screens are all black, so they don’t get grimy. And the support and responsiveness we get from our Dell team—whom we work with for other technologies—are immeasurable.”

The district has deployed 365 Dell monitors, to be followed by 450 more over the next two years. To speed installation by 81 percent and give teachers the option of moving

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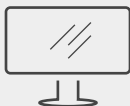
Brian Zimmer

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monitors higher or lower on the wall to help with visibility, Webster CSD attaches every monitor to a Dell wall mount. “It used to take up to four hours to install a SMART Board, says Zimmer. “Our staff can install a Dell monitor in less than 45 minutes.”

Today, learning is more seamless. “Teachers and students love that they can power up a Dell monitor and start instruction right away,” says Zimmer. “No matter where they’re sitting in the room, they see a clear image. And there’s no longer a distracting shadow being cast by the teacher.” There are also more options for collaborative learning. Students can work on the monitor together using shared or separate windows, and people can quickly connect their own devices.

Webster also has more money and IT resources to dedicate toward learning initiatives. “We’re saving money in every classroom with a Dell monitor,” Zimmer explains. “And we’ve gone from having 20 or more trouble tickets each day related to SMART Boards, to just 1 or 2 with our Dell monitors—and most are user errors. That’s pretty remarkable.”



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