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>
> **Staci Horne**
> **Administrator of Technology**
> **Phillipsburg School District**

## Infrastructure Upgrades Support Interactive Classrooms at Phillipsburg School District

The Phillipsburg School District, located in Phillipsburg, New Jersey, has enjoyed a long heritage of educational commitment to its children. For over 100 years, the schools have provided safe, healthy, competitive, and rewarding school environments for area students.

The district serves a growing population of approximately 3,500 students from the town of Phillipsburg and five sending communities at the secondary level: Alpha, Bloomsbury, Greenwich, Lopatcong and Pohatcong Townships.

Comprised of four elementary schools, a middle school, high school, alternative learning secondary school, an early childhood center and administrative offices, the district maintains a complex and connected network of technology systems to support the interactive learning environment of the schools and serve the constantly changing needs of staff and students.

### Technology Needs: Guidance and the Big Picture

With an in-house technology department with extensive capabilities, Phillipsburg was seeking a consultant to provide not only IT solutions, but professional development guidance as well. "We needed someone we could turn to with questions and then learn from…someone we could rely on," said Staci Horne, Administrator of Technology. "We also needed someone who could look at our eight schools as a unit and see the larger picture."

While the district's technology team worked hard to keep up with the changes in technology and provide an integrated, cohesive system for all buildings, some of the equipment had grown outdated and it was quickly becoming apparent that the network needed to be secured.

After interviewing four different vendors, Phillipsburg selected integraONE as the best suited to meet its needs.

## Solutions and Collaboration

A plan was quickly developed to create the level of secure, reliable access required to foster interactive learning environments for Phillipsburg's classrooms. integraONE spearheaded an initiative that would lock down the district network, upgrade switches, wireless access points and virtual local area networks (VLANS) and unify printing services at the high school. Cisco systems was the chosen vendor for product.

"integraONE is a great collaborator," noted Horne. "They understand limitations and priorities and worked with us so our in-house team could complete parts of the project."

While integraONE managed the installation process for most of the project, Phillipsburg technology staff oversaw the placement of several of the district's wireless access points. "The integraONE team is so knowledgeable. They mapped out how many access points we'd need and where they should be so our department could do the actual placement of them. They just made our job much, much easier."

## Making It All Work – A Project Comes Together

Because the project was funded in part by stimulus dollars, the integraONE team worked within the established budget to create an overall solution that would meet the school's technology and financial objectives.

"integraONE is not a company of sales people," stated Horne. "The team truly came together to present whole planning options and choices that worked for us."

In addition, because the project was rolled out during the academic year, concerns about interruptions in connectivity for students and staff needed to be addressed throughout the installation.

Horne described the process for ensuring continued service for the district. "The integraONE technicians worked on evenings and weekends so there was no shut-down at all for our population. We were amazed at how they altered their schedules to accommodate our needs - nobody does that!"

## Absolutely Awesome

Additional projects are planned for Phillipsburg in the near future and integraONE will once again be the chosen partner. Next on the list: a new file server.

"It only makes sense to continue working with integraONE," Horne noted. "They are absolutely awesome."