Verizon is helping transform K–12 schools and improve the educational experience.

K–12 education is all about transformation.

When young learners enter kindergarten, they're learning to read and write. When they graduate from high school, they're able to drive and vote. In between, there are years of learning, experience—and change. K–12 schools are transforming as well, as they work to improve the quality of education. But today's K–12 schools face significant challenges—ransomware attacks, equal access to education, the hybrid learning environment, budget concerns and more.

Verizon and K–12 districts across the US are working together to address these challenges and create digitally connected learning environments that deliver great outcomes—engaged students who are ready for higher education, careers—and the future.

This challenge persists.

16.9 million children aged 17 or younger lack high-speed home internet.[2]

3.6 million lack a computer, and 24% don't own a smartphone.[2]

59% of parents with lower incomes in the U.S. say that their children face digital obstacles to schoolwork.[3]

How can we narrow the digital divide?

Distance learning, which required that every student have reliable internet access, highlighted a painful truth—many didn't. Before COVID 19, around 42 million Americans didn't have the ability to purchase broadband internet. As the pandemic continued, the digital divide intensified.[1] Inequitable access—also known as the digital divide or the homework gap—was keeping students from having access to the technology and tools they needed to learn.

Strengthen hybrid learning and digital strategies.

It's clear that distance learning is not going away. K–12 schools have to make a deliberate plan for a new, flexible delivery method for learning—one that encompasses traditional in-class learning, distance learning, and any combination of the two. The core challenge of hybrid learning? To offer a secure, nurturing learning environment under all conditions. Addressing this challenge means developing and deepening their digital strategies and supporting learning with the right technologies.

Build a strong technology foundation (beyond Wi-Fi).

For K–12 schools to have the most effective learning environment, the campus needs a strong technology foundation—starting with robust network connectivity that can connect hundreds of students and faculty, cybersecurity solutions, data analytics and IoT solutions. This technology foundation needs to be flexible as well as strong, so it can evolve and integrate new innovations far into the future.

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Provide an immersive learning experience.

As learners, current K–12 students pose a new, more experiential challenge. After all, they grew up as digital natives, accustomed to gaming, social media, and a high degree of interactivity from online applications. They expect a more personalized, immersive learning experience that captures their imagination, as well as imparts information. 5G opens up new learning possibilities, from virtual reality to "gamified" collaboration and learning. Immersive learning is more than just fun. It gets results, raising knowledge retention and inspiring new levels of engagement and interaction.[4]

Protect K–12 schools from ransomware attacks.

According to a joint report by the FBI and other Federal security agencies, the K–12 education segment has become the top target for ransomware attacks.[5] In fact, K–12 schools make up the majority of all ransomware attacks, according to the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency. Keeping the network—and the students, faculty and administrators on it—safe from attack is a priority. And a major challenge for short-handed IT staff.

Address budget concerns.

Budget concerns are a perennial concern for K–12 schools, which often have to do more with less. But the unprecedented challenges of COVID-19 put them under even more financial pressure. Schools are able to take advantage of Federal stimulus plans and other resources to help address financial needs—and develop the right strategy and solutions to ensure the best learning environment and experiences for students.

Working together to meet the challenges of K–12 education

Verizon leverages its significant expertise and more than two decades of experience in the education marketplace to help K–12 customers ensure great outcomes. After all, technology and teaching share a common goal: to create engaged learners with a deeper understanding of today's world—and the ability to thrive in it long after they graduate. Verizon and its thousands of K–12 customers across the U.S. work closely together to achieve this critical goal.

Uncertain times demand a trusted partner.

Verizon serves as a trusted partner for K–12 districts. This ongoing collaboration with schools of all sizes across the US provides a unique perspective on how K–12 schools operate, as well as the evolving role of technology at all levels—from the district to the classroom. And it enables Verizon to create effective solutions that meet the significant challenges faced by K–12 schools.

A holistic approach to K-12 education

Verizon's holistic approach encompasses all aspects of K–12 education—from the diverse needs of students to the technology that supports them to the learning experiences that inspire them—in the classroom and beyond. By addressing the challenges faced today, Verizon helps its customers build the digitally connected K–12 campus of the future.

Verizon's full portfolio of wireless connectivity, advanced solutions, managed services and an ecosystem of partners can:

Deliver a network infrastructure that is powerful, resilient and efficient, including the platforms, bandwidth and applications required for learning and working.

Reduce the digital divide by empowering all students with reliable, readily available access to remote learning. To aid access, Verizon offers unlimited 4G LTE wireless connectivity at a discounted rate for eligible K–12 public schools and libraries.[6] Verizon LTE Vehicle Internet lets students continue learning while traveling to and from home to school events.

Create a robust hybrid learning environment with fast, reliable 4G LTE and 5G network connectivity, advanced security, collaboration solutions and devices and tools that enable immersive hybrid learning. Powerful but easy-to-use solutions help streamline the transition between in-class learning and distance learning.

Enable the interactive, immersive and engaging experiences today's students require. Verizon helps K–12 schools deliver accessible, safe and reliable digital experiences that expand learning with new capabilities, from virtual reality to AI-enhanced learning. No matter how teachers choose to deepen and enrich the learning experience, Verizon provides the fast connectivity and digital transformation capabilities to make it happen.

Safeguard students and faculty online and off with a wide range of proven security tools. With more than 25 years of security experience in protecting networks and their users, Verizon has the expertise and broad array of solutions that can help keep K–12 schools safe, protect the network and its data from ransomware and emerging threats—and can help ensure compliance with CIPA regulations.

These Verizon solutions and many more are helping K–12 schools accelerate their digital transformation, achieve impressive outcomes—and empower students with the skills and knowledge they need to thrive long after they graduate.

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Committed to the ongoing transformation of K–12 schools

No two K–12 districts, schools (or learners) are alike. That's why Verizon offers a flexible portfolio of solutions that empower K–12 schools to meet their specific challenges. Advanced solutions, special bundles and competitive pricing help K–12 schools deliver exceptional digital experiences; modernize for digital classrooms and distance learning, simplify collaboration among teachers, parents and staff, and more. All while helping ensure cybersecurity and enabling seamless growth and evolution in the future.

Learn more.

To find out more about Verizon and K–12 schools—as well as Verizon's portfolio of K–12 solutions—visit:

verizon.com/k12

1   "Disconnected: How the Digital Divide Harms Workers and What We Can Do About It," The Century Foundation and Next100, October 22, 2020.

2   "New Analysis Shows Students of Color Far More Likely to Be Cut Off From Online Learning," Alliance for Education (All4Ed), July 21, 2020. (https://all4ed.org/press_release/new-analysis-shows-students-of-color-far-more-likely-to-be-cut-off-from-online-learning/#:~:text=Washington%2C%20D.C.%2E%80%94As%20schools%20across,to%20be%20disconnected%20from%20online)

3   Pew Research Center, September 10, 2020. (https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2021/10/01/what-we-know-about-online-learning-and-the-homework-gap-amid-the-pandemic/)

4   "Everything You Need to Know About Immersive Learning," eLearning Industry, January 24, 2020 (https://elearningindustry.com/everything-need-know-about-immersive-learning)

5   Joint report by the FBI, the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), and the Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center (MS-ISAC), December 10, 2020 (https://www.cisa.gov/uscert/ncas/alerts/aa20-345a)

6   See your state-sponsored agreement for the specific terms and conditions. Most state agreements include a device, CIPA compliance and Mobile Device Management, but K–12 schools can choose their preferred products.

Verizon is making a real difference in these K–12 schools.

Across the US, K–12 schools are using Verizon solutions to transform their classrooms, enable distance learning, address the digital divide, and much more.

Indiana's Fort Wayne Community Schools district
One of the largest school districts in the state, Indiana's Fort Wayne Community Schools district, turned to Verizon to deliver connectivity solutions to thousands of students. More than 7,500 Verizon MiFi mobile hotspots configured with Verizon Mobile Device Management (MDM) software enabled large-scale digital learning during the pandemic. Even with students scattered across the US in the homes of relatives and elsewhere, teachers were able to keep their education plans moving ahead.

Chief Leschi Schools
The largest tribal school in Washington state, Chief Leschi Schools, partnered with Verizon to help it fulfill its mission by strengthening its remote learning capabilities and transforming how teachers, students and parents connect and collaborate. With more than 600 students representing more than 80 different tribes, the campus is a diverse place. When it made an abrupt transition to remote learning, Verizon equipped families who didn't have Wi-Fi with mobile hotspots and 4G LTE connectivity that helped provide digital equity. Verizon even equipped buses with Wi-Fi, letting students take advantage of their (sometimes long) commute to build upon what they had learned in the classroom.

Northeast K–12 school district
A large K–12 school district serving 15 schools in the Northeast turned to Verizon Connect fleet management software to bring new efficiency to its fleet of 40 vehicles. Better vehicle tracking helped lower gas consumption by eliminating unnecessary trips, consolidating routes and reducing idling—creating significant fuel savings of $600,000 annually. The district also receives automated alerts when vehicles are due for oil changes and inspections, streamlining vehicle upkeep. And with Verizon Connect, the district gained new visibility into driver activity, identifying speeding and other issues—and initiating changes in driver behavior to increase safety.

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