

Case study

Smart technology investments prepare students for success in a rapidly changing landscape



Organization

Fife School District

Country

United States

HP Technology

- HP X360 Chromebooks G1EE
- HP Care Packs

HP Financial Services

HP Adaptable Use Model - Extended Deployment



“HPFS enabled us to meet our objective of the 1:1 program so much faster than we anticipated, and with economics that really met our needs.”

– Keith Stevens, Manager of Infrastructure Technology and Support Services, Fife School District

Can you imagine 2035?

Ask a five year old what they want to be when they grow up and you’ll hear baseball player, dancer or doctor. But the reality is that a majority of kids will end up in careers that don’t yet exist. How to you prepare a child for such a rapidly changing future?

That’s one of the issues the educators at Fife School District were grappling with when they began plans for a 1:1 technology program to provide each of their 3700 students with a notebook computer to be used at school, at home or on the go.

Located in Pierce County, Washington, the district is intent on teaching what it calls “21st century skills,” or skills that won’t become obsolete. According to Keith Stevens, Manager of Infrastructure Technology and Support Services for Fife, technology is one of the tools that enable those abilities.

“Technology helps us go beyond boundaries of time, space, and location,” explains Stevens. “As knowledge becomes commoditized, it’s what we do with it and how we interact with it that becomes essential.”

HP's X360 Chromebook withstands standing

The HP Chromebooks were not only technologically superior in Stevens' opinion, but also rugged enough to stand up to kids. HP's model comes with Corning® Gorilla® Glass 3, co-molded industrial rubber, and a spill-resistant keyboard.

To prove the device's durability, Stevens staged a demonstration for the school's board of directors. "I put a pen on the computer, closed the lid and stood on it. Then I picked it up, turned it on and it fired right up."

The community votes yes to technology

Like any public school, Fife relies on government funding for its budget. But state funding only goes so far and would not cover the 1:1 technology plan. So the district put together a proposal for a six year tax increase to fund the program and was thrilled when the tax payers voted yes. That meant all students would get notebooks eventually, but it would take three years. The district would need to prioritize which schools would get notebooks now and which would need to wait one or two years.

With funding in place, Fife engaged a trusted technology partner, Zones, to help execute the plan. "Zones was very knowledgeable about our goals and worked through many different scenarios to recommend the technology that would best suit our needs," Says Stevens. After looking at every manufacturer, Fife selected HP X360 Chromebooks G1EE.

Getting an A in math

Zones was not only savvy about HP technology, but they also knew innovative ways to invest in that technology; Zones recommended an Extended Deployment structure from HP Financial Services.

Extended Deployment would enable Fife to acquire all 3700 computers and their service contracts up-front, activate them in waves and only pay for the hardware and warranties as they're activated. Acquiring all of it up-front enabled the school to benefit from a bulk purchase discount – nearly 10% – as well as standardize on a single device which streamlined the school's IT support requirements. But even more importantly, it enabled the school to condense the roll-out

schedule from three years to six months. That eliminated any disparity because now every student would have a notebook in the first half of the school year.

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Transforming the learning experience

Thanks to HP, Zones, and the taxpayers and educators of Fife, WA, the school is transforming the learning experience. "Having ubiquitous access to technology is essential today – it's no longer optional. With our 1:1 technology program, every student has the resources he or she needs and teachers can design dynamic lesson plans knowing that every pupil has a working device with the same capabilities."

The technology is an important tool, but every educator and staff member remains focused on the bigger picture: preparing its students for success as they enter adulthood and beyond.

Get ready 2035 – here they come!

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