Embracing Flexible Learning: Four Steps to Making Hybrid Education Work

> " With Meraki, we just go in and look at the dashboard and it tells you what's going on.

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Change has seemed like the only constant over the past few years

School systems large and small are meeting the demand for flexible, hybrid learning environments, evolving into omnichannel centers for community engagement, and navigating a seemingly constant flurry of budget curveballs. These challenges have highlighted the need for an agile infrastructure and a culture ready to embrace change like never before.

For many IT leaders, the foundation for agility resides in the cloud. Moving processes, applications, security, and other functions into public, private, or hybrid clouds not only extends access to dispersed teams, but also provides flexibility and dexterity to IT, allowing you to quickly do more with less from decentralized locations.

As the move to the cloud continues and you're tasked to do more with the same budget, how can your team drive and support the changes needed to enable the digital workplace and hybrid learning of today and the future?

A foundation for flexibility

Shifting to a more flexible education structure that allows institutions to move from in-person to hybrid learning as needed requires your school's technology infrastructure to have a robust, secure, and strong foundation. Whatever your district's size, you are most likely searching for ways to minimize your time on the mundane and maximize resources spent on digital innovation, like new services, products, and capabilities.

With a cloud-based network platform, your school will have the agility needed to take on this evolution and provide the best experience for students, staff, and teachers, in addition to providing equitable learning opportunities for students regardless of their environment.

Keep the security of your school connected

Making sure secure Wi-Fi is available to students, teachers, and staff is an important but often time-consuming part of your job. Now, more than ever, it is vital to provide secure connectivity, both inside the classroom and out.

One-on-one learning seems like a thing of the past, having been all but pushed out due to the pandemic. Students and teachers are relying on smart devices, with schools often following a BYOD model that drives a need for a supportive, secure network.

That could mean more strain on your Wi-Fi network, its bandwidth and security, and your team.

See how the ABCs of a cloud-managed platform can reduce connectivity headaches in education.

Automation allows IT teams to dramatically cut up to 95% of time spent manually performing network changes, and with time freed up, your team can stay ahead of student needs.
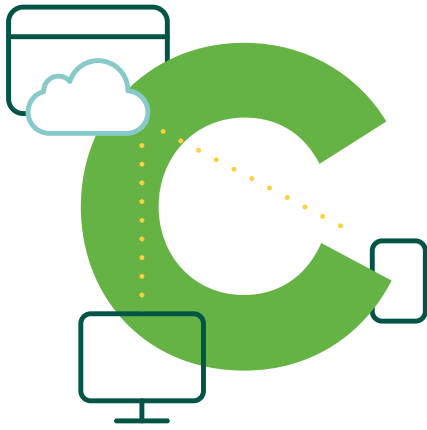
For example, IT teams can set up automated security updates on all iOs devices, saving time not only for faculty and students but IT as well, who would have previously needed to manually update each device. You can see one real-life example of the power of automation in action at the Pflugerville School District in Texas. The small IT team needed a way to cut down on the time it spent managing devices manually, so it set up various automated tasks that resulted in a more efficient, less cumbersome workload.

A **broad ecosystem** of partners enables you to quickly meet your need for new services by empowering your team to scale without requiring internal resources.

These vetted experts can help deliver applications that allow students and parents to easily and securely enroll and manage devices on your network even before they step into the classroom. This ensures a secure connection for a hybrid learning environment, protecting data from anywhere, on any device.

Configuration is protected and replicable, with monitoring conducted via an intuitive dashboard.

Whether your district just built a new school or created nontraditional learning environments in areas like a playground or gymnasium, your team can rapidly establish secure connectivity and provide the same experience everywhere, regardless of where students physically access classes.

Data analytics give you the power to proactively see usage patterns that may unveil opportunities or highlight potential problems.

For example, leverage data from your network to understand movement and density patterns of students and teachers while on school grounds to make sure they are adhering to social distancing guidelines. Or monitor parking lots to see if there are ways you can improve traffic flow or the location of parking spots.

With agility at the center of your infrastructure strategy, your district can create secure and flexible learning models while your tech team garners time, agility, and rave reviews.

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[Learn more](#) about connecting your school with a cloud-first platform.